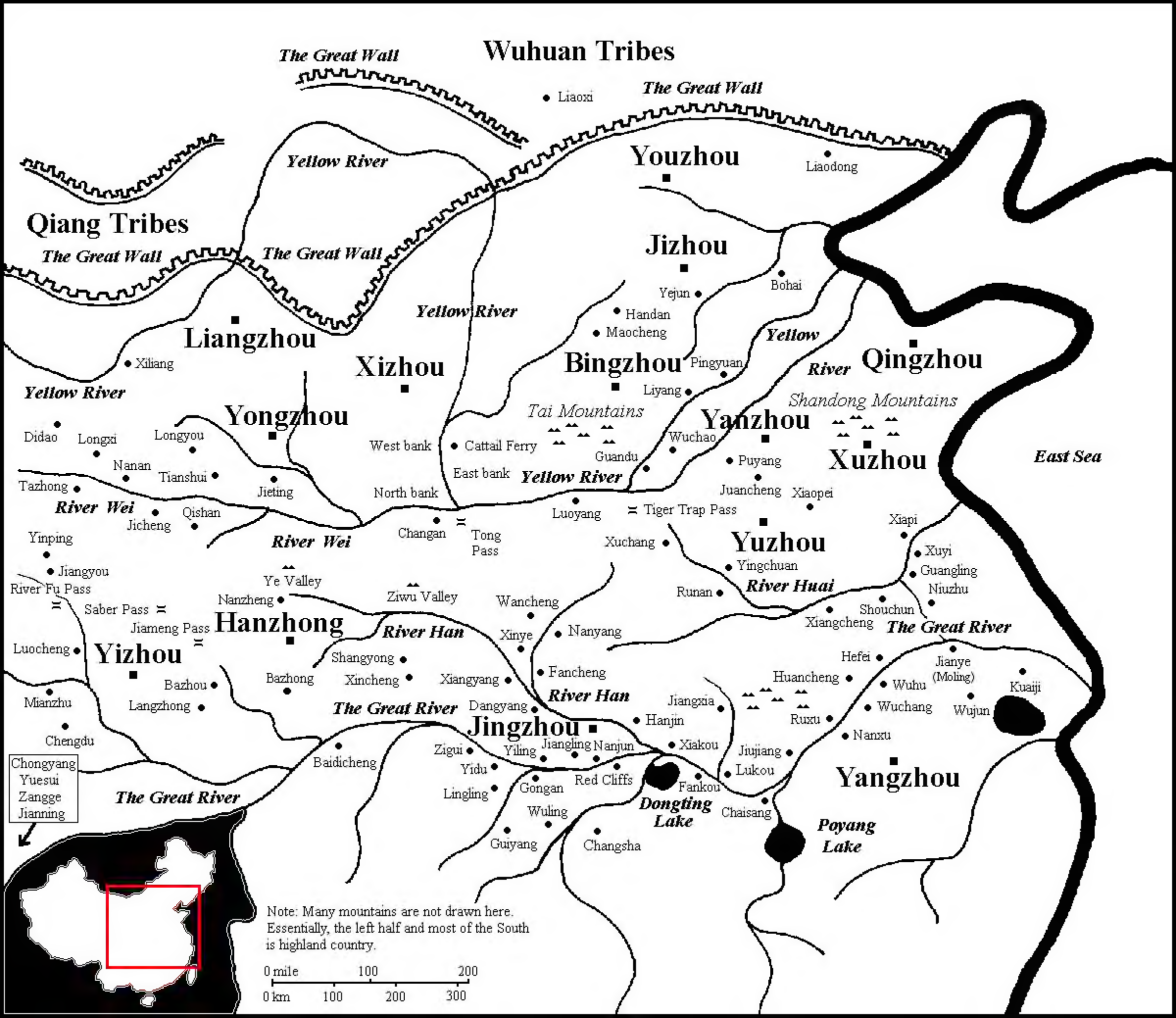
三国志 ⑱

横山光輝

決死の千里行

希望コミックス68

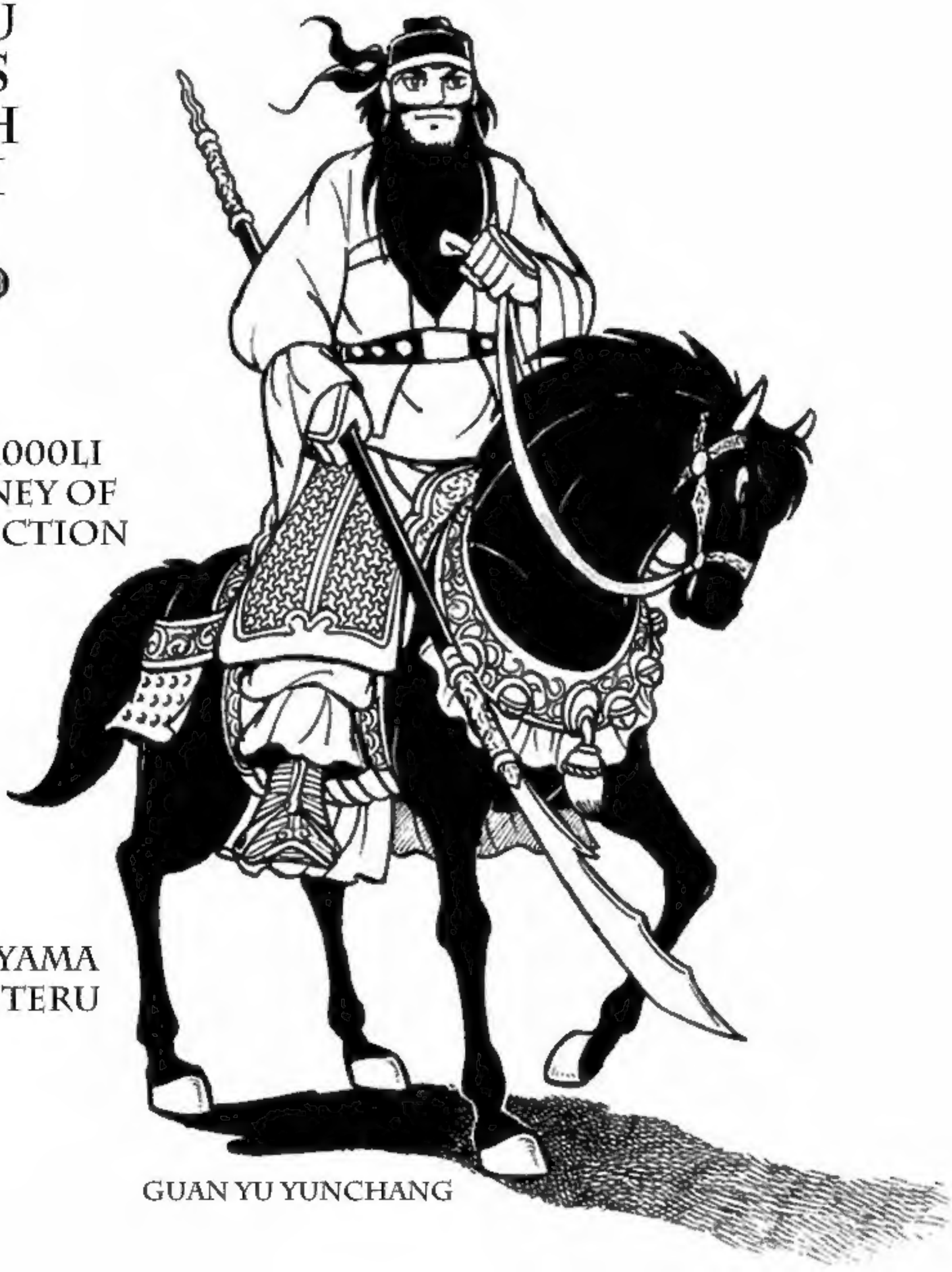

Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

SANGOKUSHI

18

THE 1000LI JOURNEY OF CONVICTION

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU



GUAN YU YUNCHANG

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

VOLUME 18
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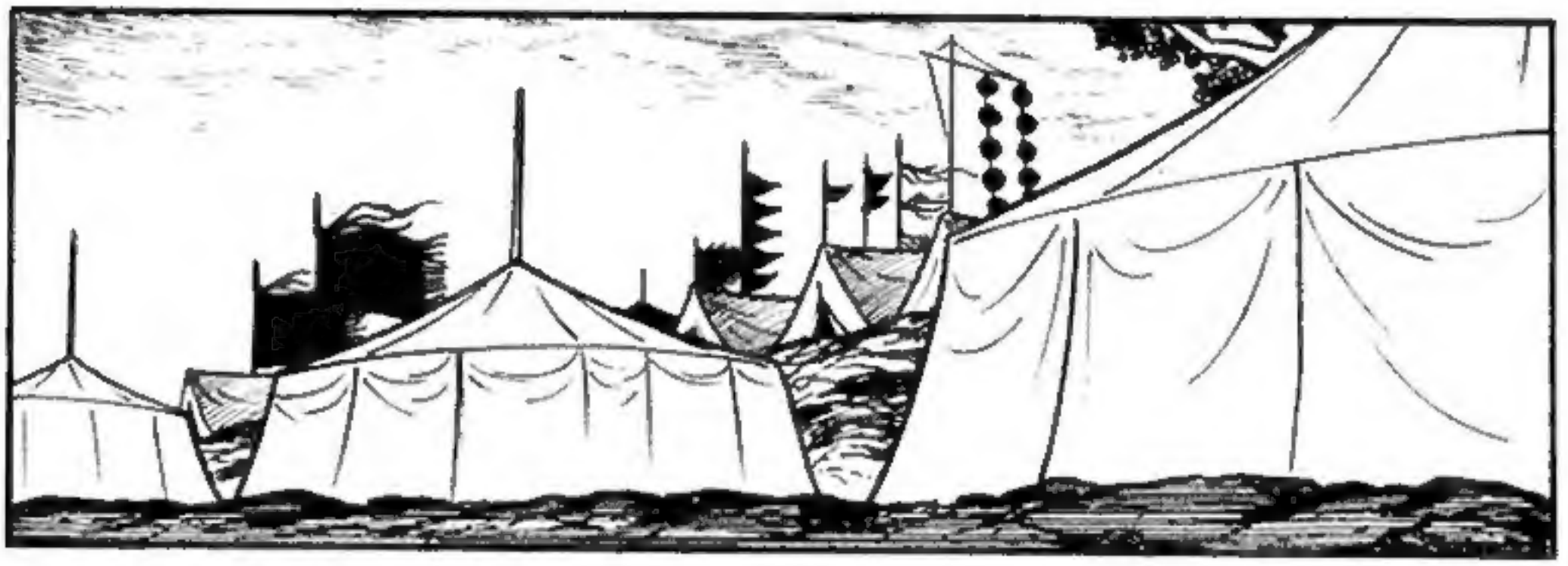
BAIT



WHO IS THE ENEMY COMM-ANDER?

YES, SIR.
WHAT? YUAN SHAO'S ARMY HAVE CROSSED THE YELLOW RIVER AND ARE ALREADY NEAR YANJIN!?

WEN CHOU IS REPORTED TO BE THE COMMANDER LEADING THIS OFFENSIVE.

I KNOW A LITTLE, MY LORD. HE IS REPUTED TO BE EVEN FIERCER THAN YAN LIANG, BUT HIS THINKING FALLS FAR BEHIND HIS STRENGTH.

WEN CHOU...? WHO HERE KNOWS OF WEN CHOU?

ALRIGHT, SEND OUT THE PROVISIONS BATTALION FIRST AND HAVE OUR MAIN FIGHTING FORCES FOLLOW FAR BEHIND!

HMM, SO HE'S JUST A WILD BOAR?

JUST DO AS I SAY!

BUT SIR! DOING THAT WILL PUT OUR SUPPLIES AT RISK!

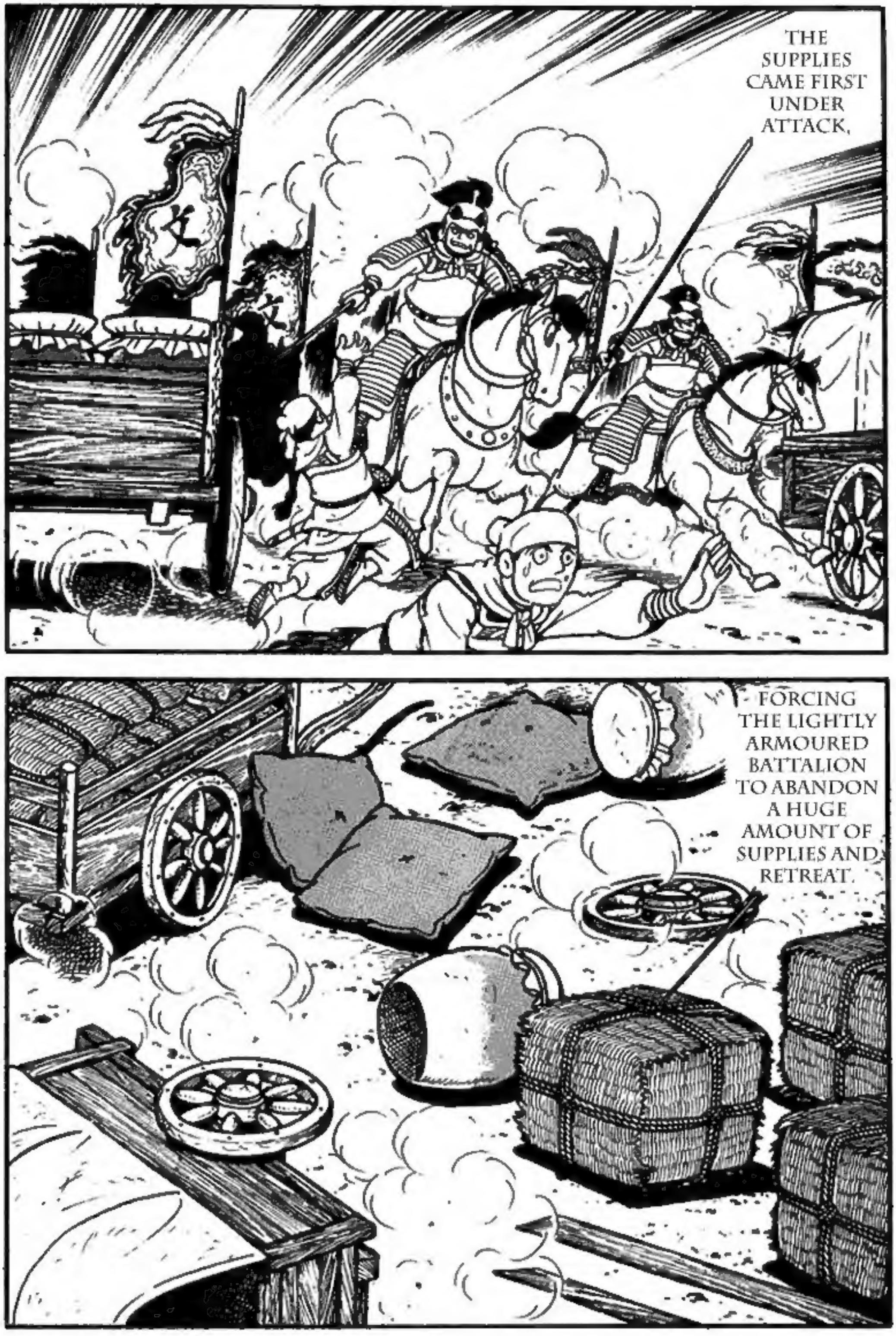
JUST WHAT IS THE CHANCELLOR PLANNING...?

PUTTING OUR SUPPLIES FIRST? WHY, THIS IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF HOW AN ARMY SHOULD ADVANCE!

AND SO CAO CAO'S ARMY MARCHED IN THIS MOST PECULIAR WAY.

THE RELATIVELY LIGHTLY GUARDED SUPPLY WAGONS WERE ORDERED TO LEAD THE VANGUARD, WITH THE MAIN FIGHTING FORCE FOLLOWING FAR BEHIND.

UNSUR-
PRISINGLY
...


THE SUPPLIES CAME FIRST UNDER ATTACK,
FORCING THE LIGHTLY ARMOURED BATTALION TO ABANDON A HUGE AMOUNT OF SUPPLIES AND RETREAT.

SPURRED ON BY THE ENEMY'S CONTINUAL WITHDRAWALS, WEN CHOU'S ARMY CAME OUT CHARGING FASTER THAN EVER.

THE ENEMIES HAVE ADVANCED TOO FAR. THEIR LINES MUST BE THINLY SCATTERED ABOUT NOW.

WHAT COURSE OF ACTION SHOULD WE TAKE NEXT, MY LORD?

I STRESS THAT NOBODY ATTACKS ***UNTIL*** I GIVE THE SIGNAL.

ALRIGHT, WE SHALL PRETEND TO FLEE IN PANIC BY DIVIDING INTO TWO UNITS. I WANT ONE UNIT TO FLEE TO THE NORTH, WHILE THE OTHER, TO THE SOUTH. ON MY SIGNAL, YOU WILL TURN AROUND AND COUNTER-ATTACK.

YES, SIR!

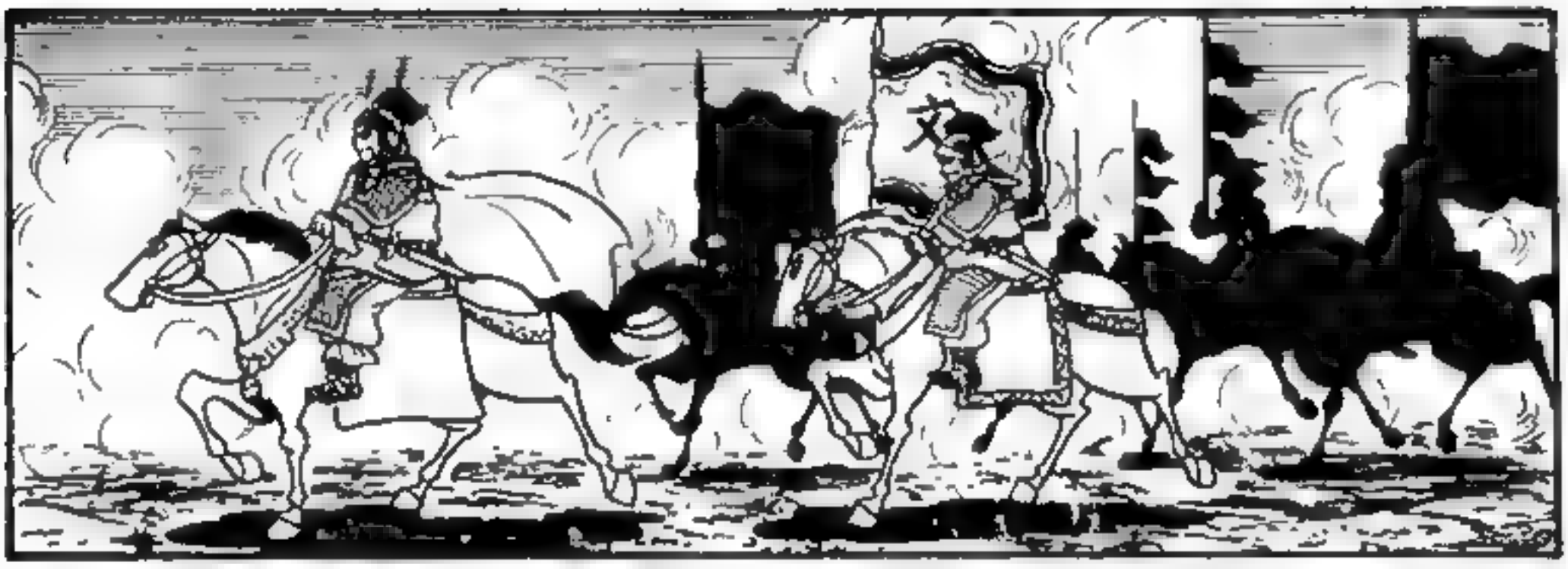
NOW GO!

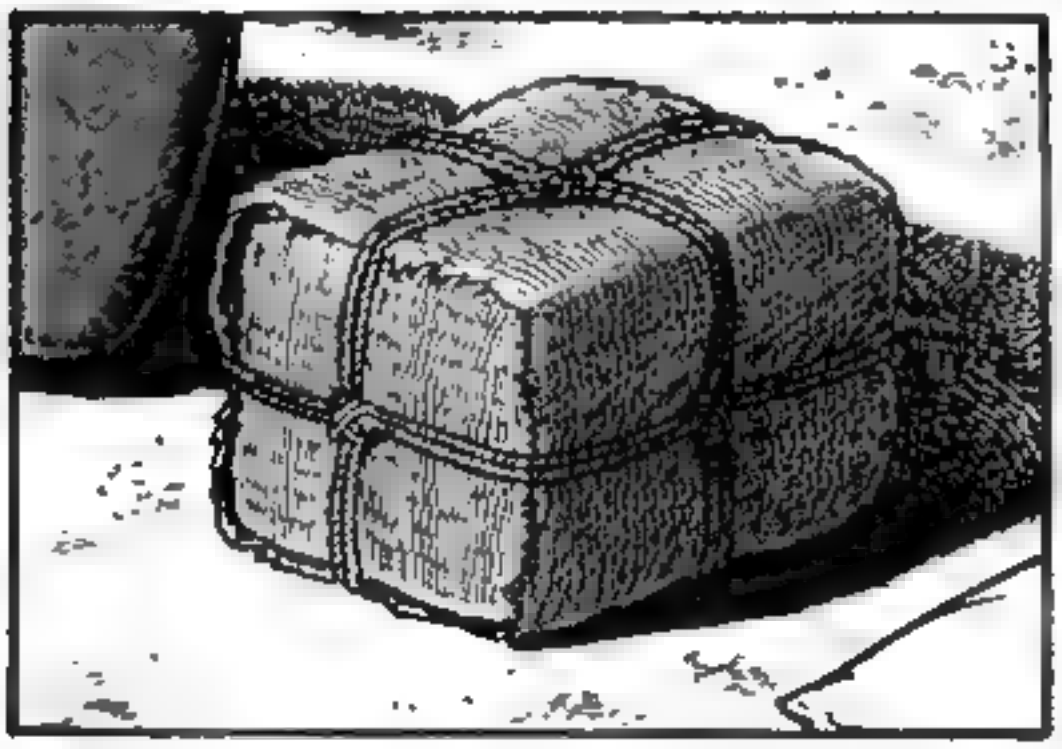
LOOK AT THOSE COWARDS RUN AWAY AT THE MERE SIGHT OF US! AFTER THEM!

HMPH, FOR A BUNCH OF LOSERS, THEY SURE ARE MASTERS AT RETREATING...

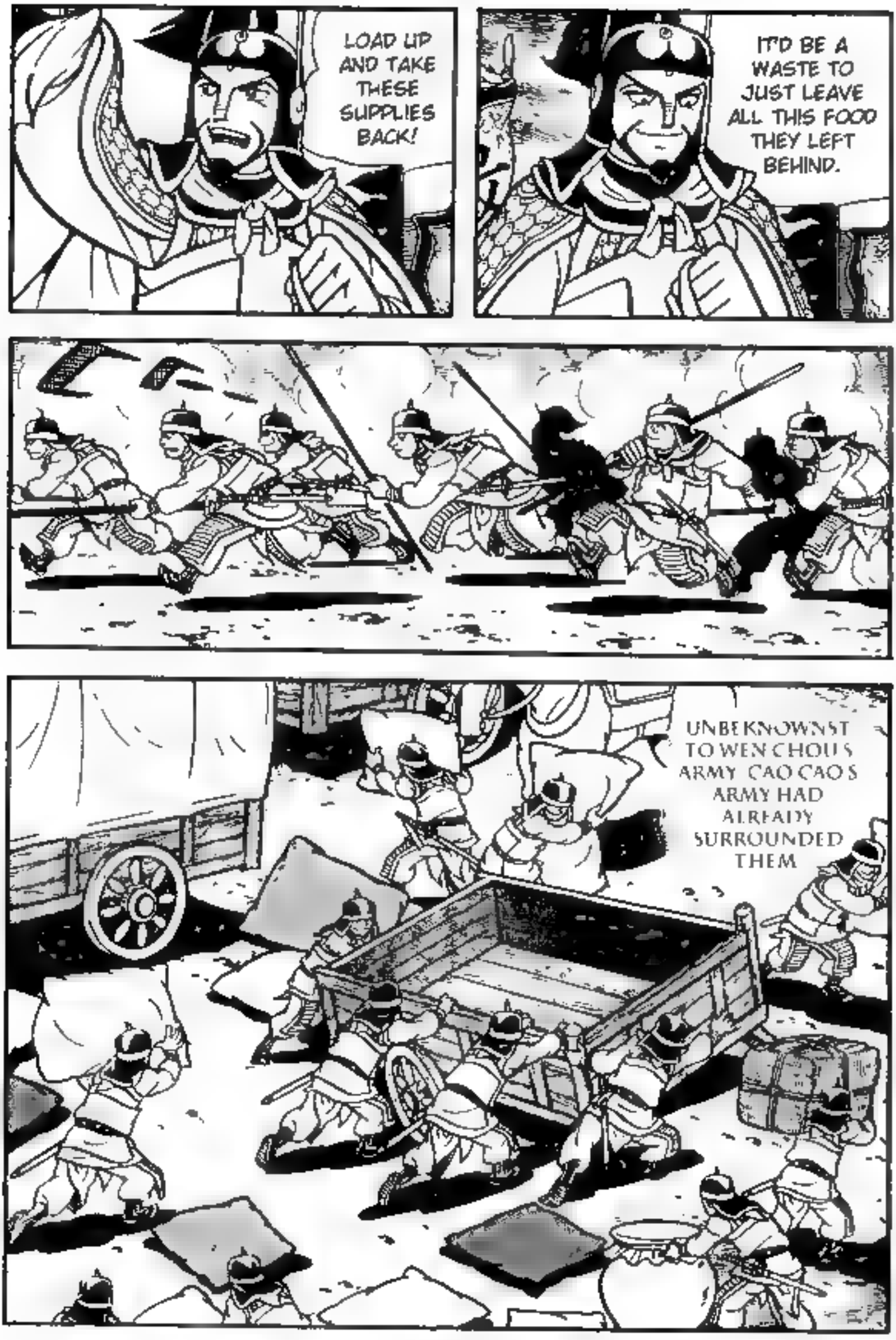
COMMANDER WEN CHOU, I BELIEVE WE'VE ADVANCED MUCH TOO DEEP INTO ENEMY TERRITORY.

YES... I BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT. WE SHOULD QUICKLY FALL BACK BEFORE IT GETS TOO DARK.





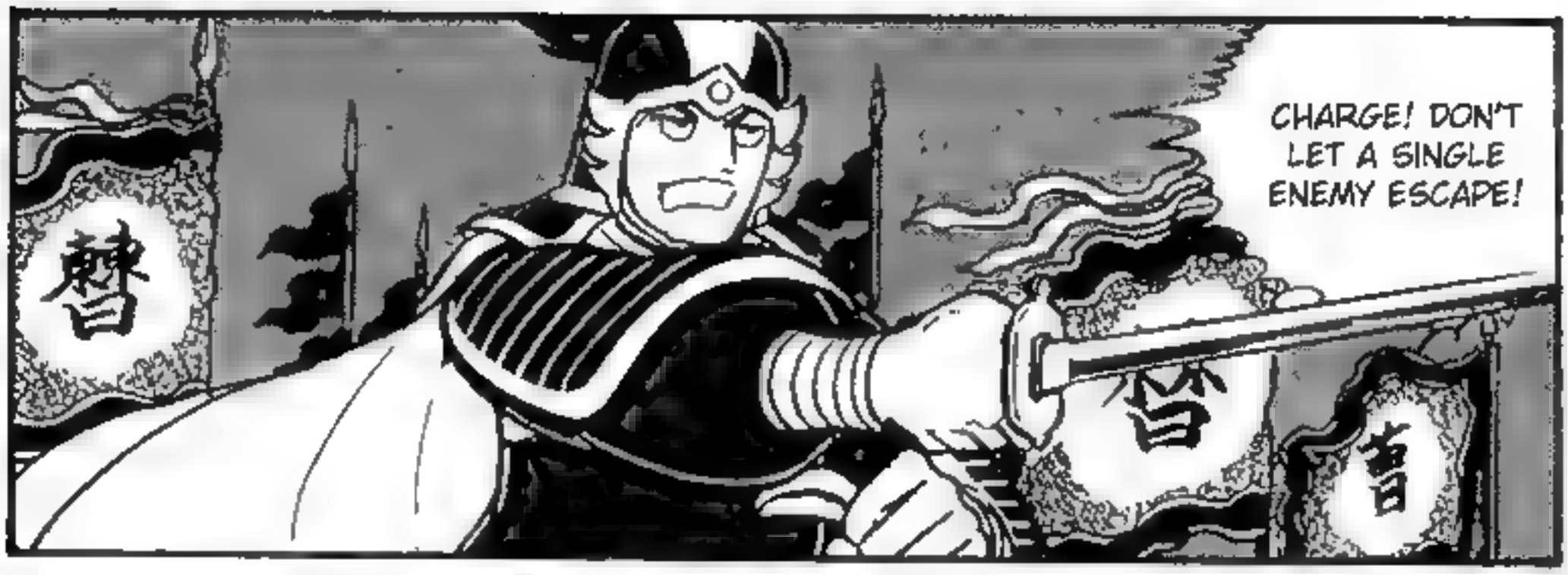
AH!


LOAD UP AND TAKE THESE SUPPLIES BACK!
IT'D BE A WASTE TO JUST LEAVE ALL THIS FOOD THEY LEFT BEHIND.
UNBEKNOWNST TO WEN CHOU'S ARMY CAO CAO'S ARMY HAD ALREADY SURROUNDED THEM

THE ABANDONED PROVISIONS HAD BEEN SKILFULLY USED TO BAIT WEN CHOU'S ARMY

HAHA, THOSE FOOLS WALKED RIGHT INTO THE TRAP!

YES, SIR.
FIRE THE SIGNAL.


CHARGE! DON'T LET A SINGLE ENEMY ESCAPE!

W-WE'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!

AGH!

DON'T PANIC! STAND YOUR GROUND AND FIGHT!

COME IF YOU DARE, I SHALL MAKE QUICK WORK OF YOU.

KIN

STOP RIGHT THERE! I SHALL BE YOUR MATCH TODAY!

GUAN YU YUNCHANG!

HMM, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU CAN FIGHT A LITTLE. STATE YOUR NAME!

I SHALL HAVE MY REVENGE!

G-GUAN YU!? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED YAN LIANG!

NOT BAD, YOU'RE A LITTLE BETTER THAN YAN LIANG, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

NGHHH!

HOW DARE YOU!

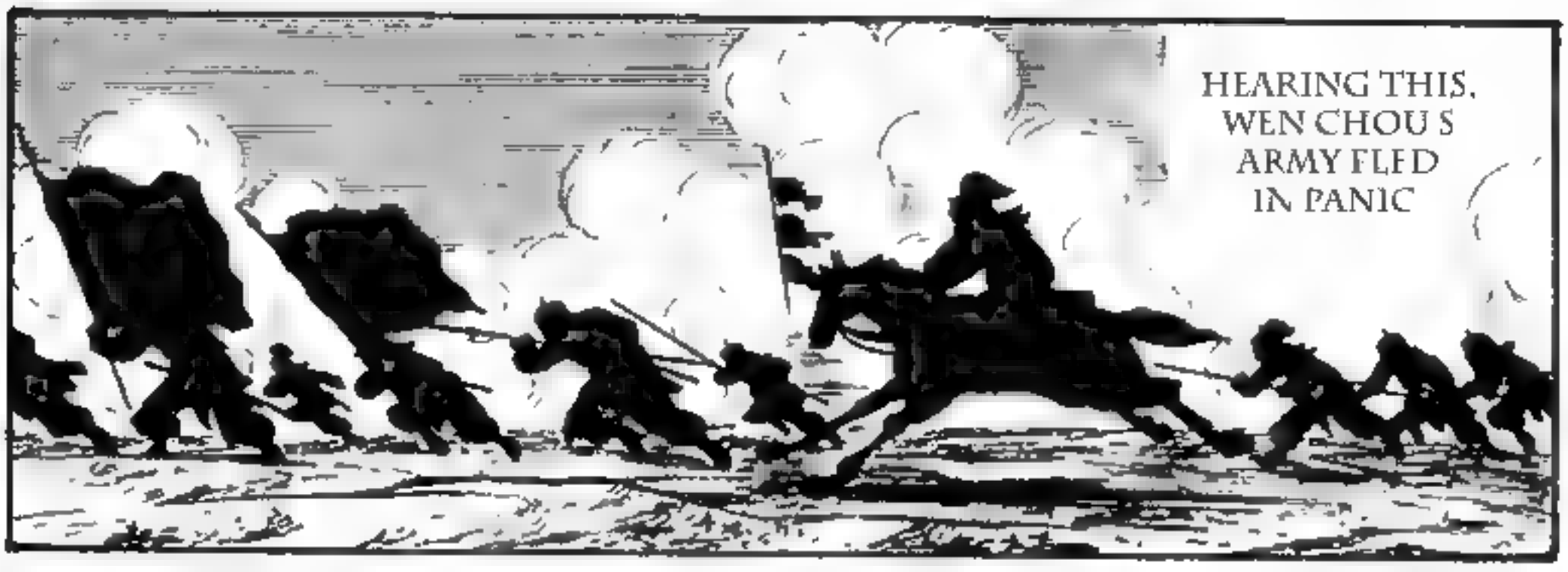
BUT YOU'RE STILL NO MATCH FOR ME.

ACK!

AGHH!

LIKE YAN LIANG, WEN CHOU FELL TO A SINGLE BLOW BY GUAN YU.

HEAR ME WELL! YOUR COMMANDER WEN CHOU HAS BEEN SLAIN BY ME, GUAN YU! IF YOU TREASURE YOUR LIFE, THEN THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER AT ONCE!


HEARING THIS, WEN CHOU S ARMY FLED IN PANIC

AND OTHERS DROWNED IN THE YELLOW RIVER WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE

MANY WERE SHOT.

BY DAWN, NOT A SINGLE OF WEN CHOU'S SOLDIERS WERE LEFT STANDING

GENERAL LIU BEI!

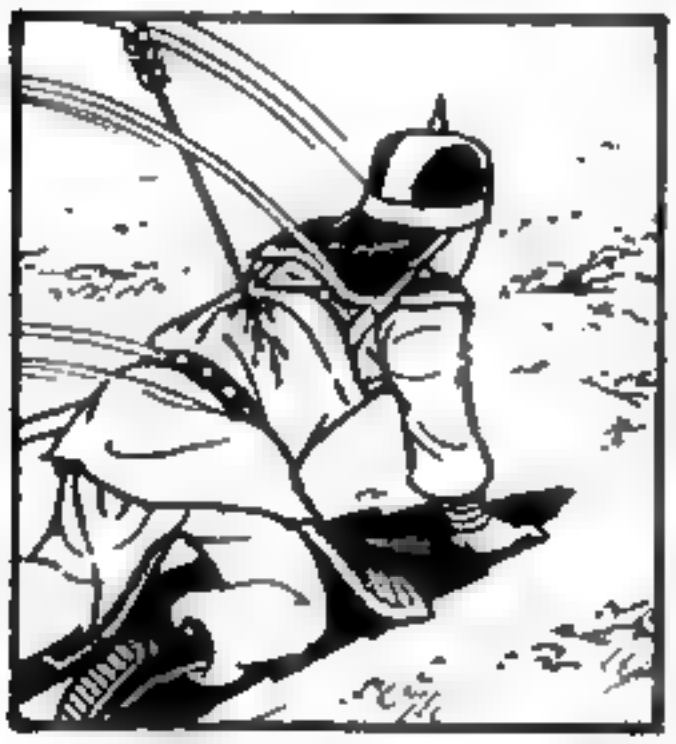
WHAT IS IT?

SIR!

WHAT!?

THE REMNANTS OF COMMANDER WEN CHOU'S FORCES ARE FLEEING THIS WAY!

AHH!



WE FELL INTO CAO CAO'S TRAP AND WERE ALMOST COMPLETELY ANNHILATED.

WHAT HAPPENED!?

WHAT OF COMMANDER WEN CHOU!?

WHAT!?

CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT?

WHAT!?

THE COMMANDER HAS BEEN SLAIN BY A MAN NAMED GUAN YU.

YES, I WITNESSED IT WITH MY OWN TWO EYES.

PARDON?

I WISH TO CONFIRM HIS IDENTITY MYSELF.

LEAD ME CLOSE TO HIM AS POSSIBLE.

劉
A-AS YOU WISH, SIR.
I SAID GLIDE ME TO HIM! NOW!
劉

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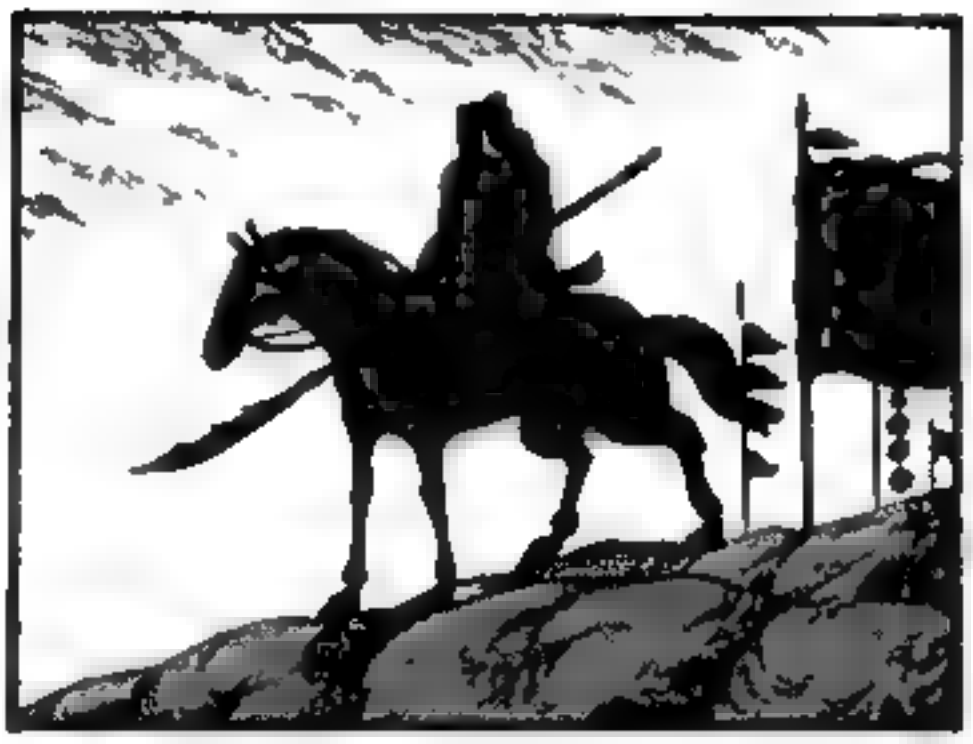
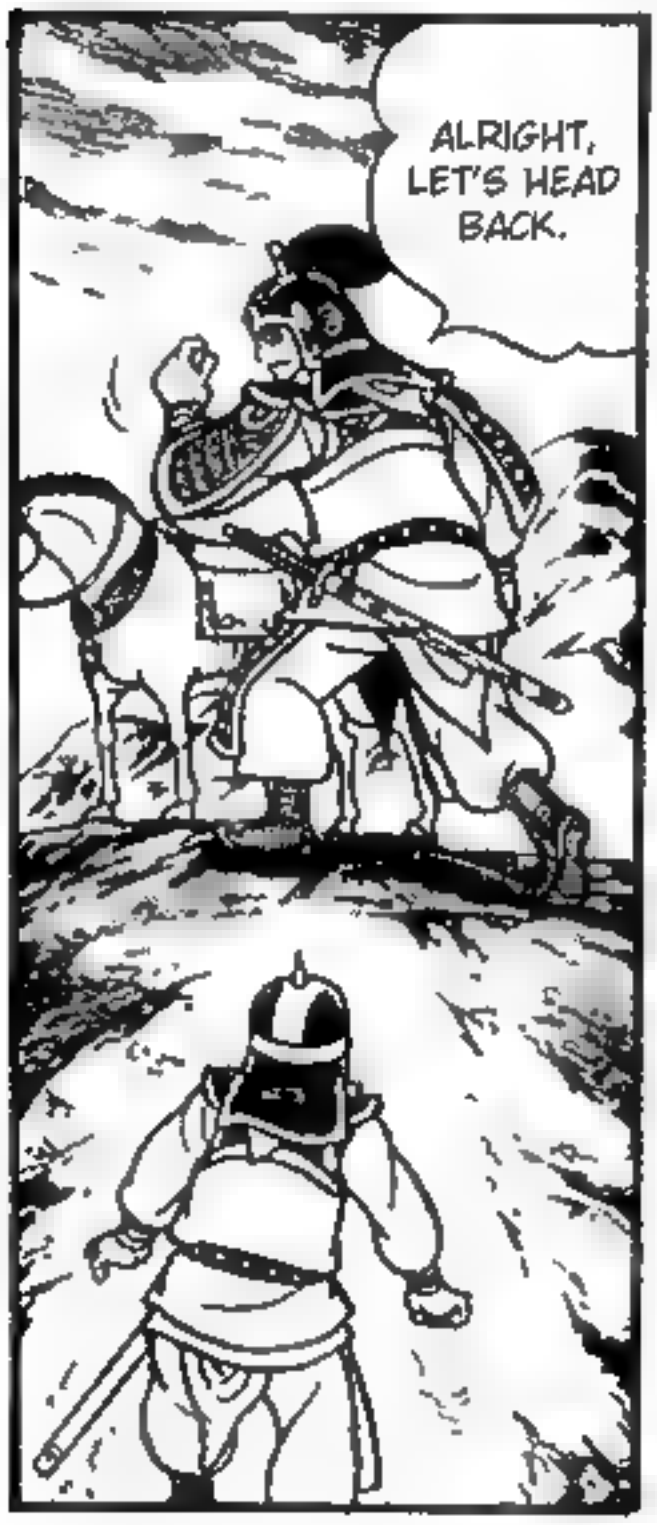
IT'S THE BEARDED GENERAL OVER THERE, SIR.



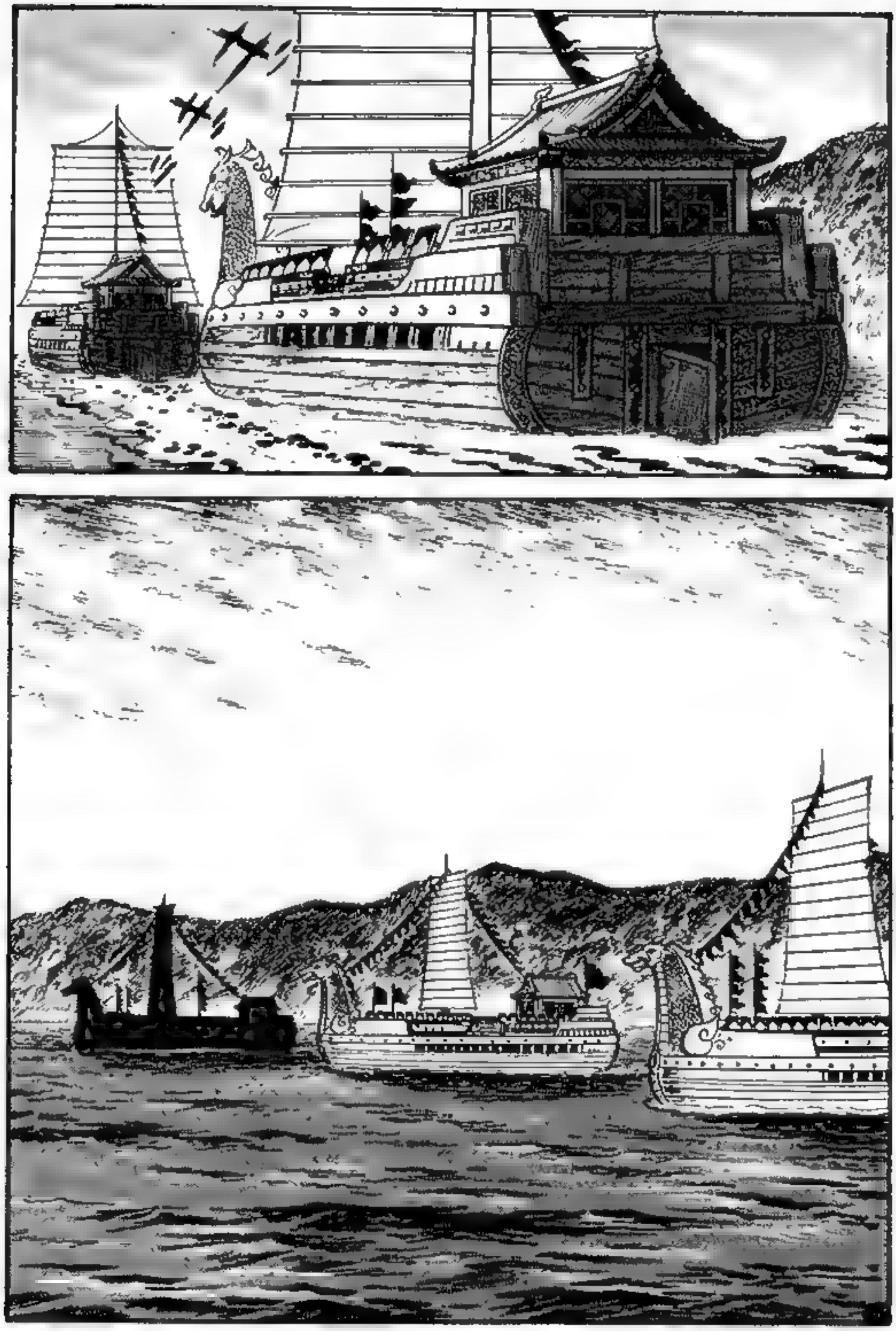

ALRIGHT, LET'S HEAD BACK.

IN ANY CASE, I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT HE'S ALIVE AND WELL...
THAT'S DEFINITELY GUAN YU WITHOUT A DOUBT.

ALL SOLDIERS, LOAD UP THE SUPPLIES AND RETREAT BACK ACROSS THE YELLOW RIVER!

AND WITH THE COMMANDER DEAD AND HIS FORCES ANNHILATED, WE CANNOT HOLD THIS POINT ALONE!

CAO CAO'S ARMY WILL BE SURE TO COME CHARGING HERE ANY MOMENT NOW!



YES, MY LORD. IT WAS MOST DEFINITELY THE ONE AND ONLY GUAN YU.

WHAT!? WEN CHOU HAS ALSO BEEN SLAIN BY GUAN YU!?

ALTHOUGH I GAVE LIU BEI THE BENEFIT OF MY DOUBT LAST TIME, I SHAN'T DO IT AGAIN. HE HAS TO BE PLOTTING WITH CAO CAO...!

NGHH...!

YES, SIR!

BRING ME LIU BEI AT ONCE!

I SEE...

MY LORD YUAN SHU HAS CALLED FOR SIR'S PRESENCE.

WELL, WELL... IT SEEMS YOU DID INDEED BETRAY ME.

YOU CALLED, SIR?

YES, EXACTLY. JUST HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER WORKING FOR CAO CAO!?

I ASSUME YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE MATTER OF GUAN YU.

GO ON! TRY TO EXPLAIN YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS!

THANKS TO YOUR BROTHER, TWO OF MY BEST GENERALS ARE DEAD AND ***WE'RE*** NOW THE ONES AT A DISADVNATAGE!

I UNDERSTAND SIR'S FURY, BUT I CAN ONLY REPEAT WHAT I'VE SAID BEFORE. THAT IS TO SAY THAT I'VE LOST TRACK OF BOTH MY BROTHERS EVER SINCE ESCAPING FROM XUZHOU.

HMM...

I'M CERTAIN THAT GUAN YU IS UNAWARE OF MY PRESENCE HERE. IF HE ONLY KNEW HERE, HE WOULD COME RUNNING IMMEDIATELY TO HELP OUR CAUSE. HIS FIERCLY LOYAL NATURE WOULD NOT ALLOW ANYTHING ELSE.

BUT THAT WOULD ONLY BE PLAYING INTO CAO CAO'S HANDS. HE WISHES NOTHING MORE THAN FOR OUR SIDE TO DESTROY ITSELF FROM WITHIN.

IF SIR STILL DOUBTS ME, THEN SO BE IT. TAKE MY HEAD FOR ALL I CARE.

I SEE...

OF COURSE, AS LONG AS I CAN SEND A MESSAGE TO HIM.

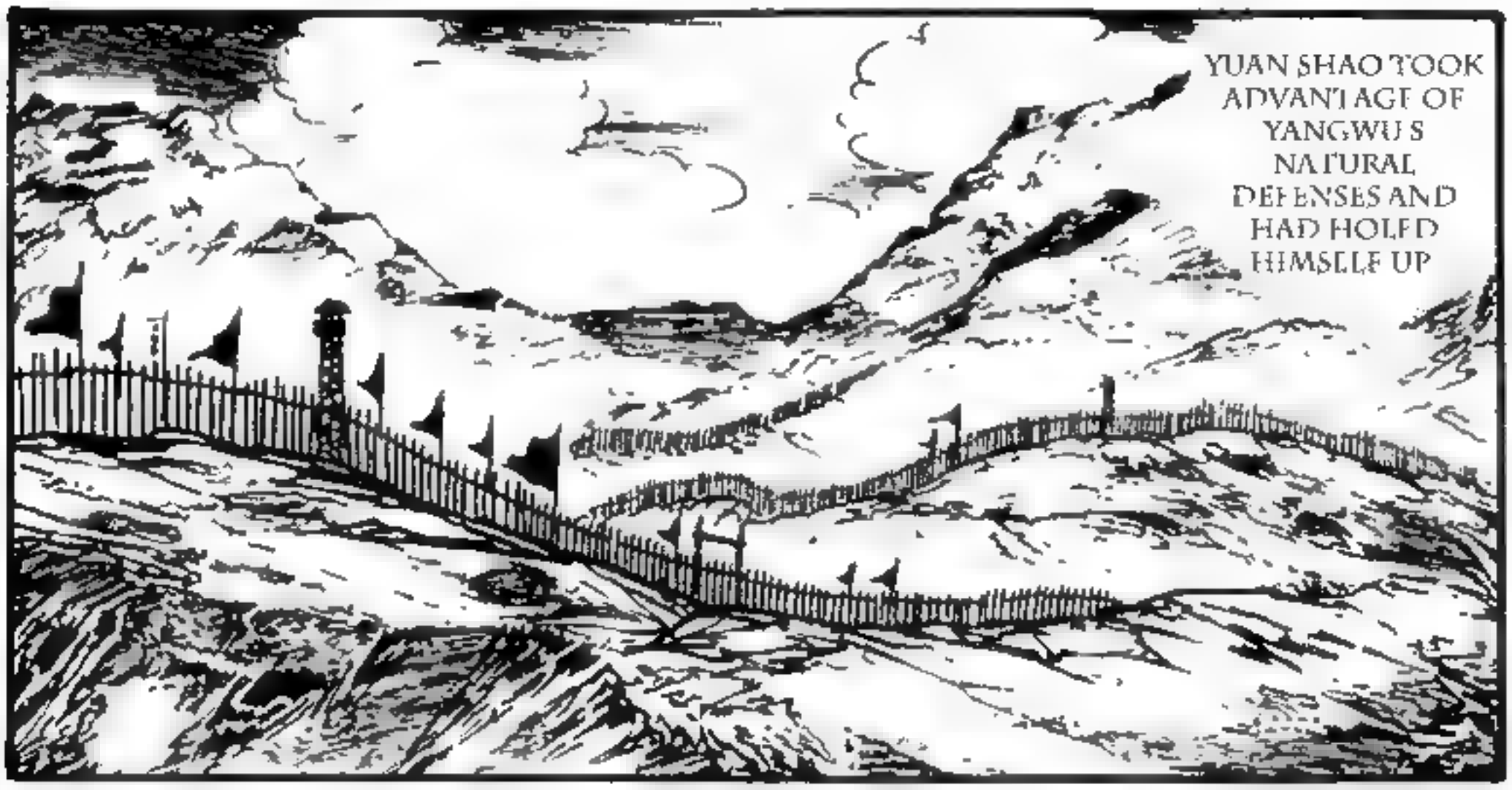
HMM...

THEN ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT YOU CAN BRING GUAN YU TO OUR SIDE?

THANK YOU, SIR. I SHALL SEND A SECRET EMISSARY AT ONCE.

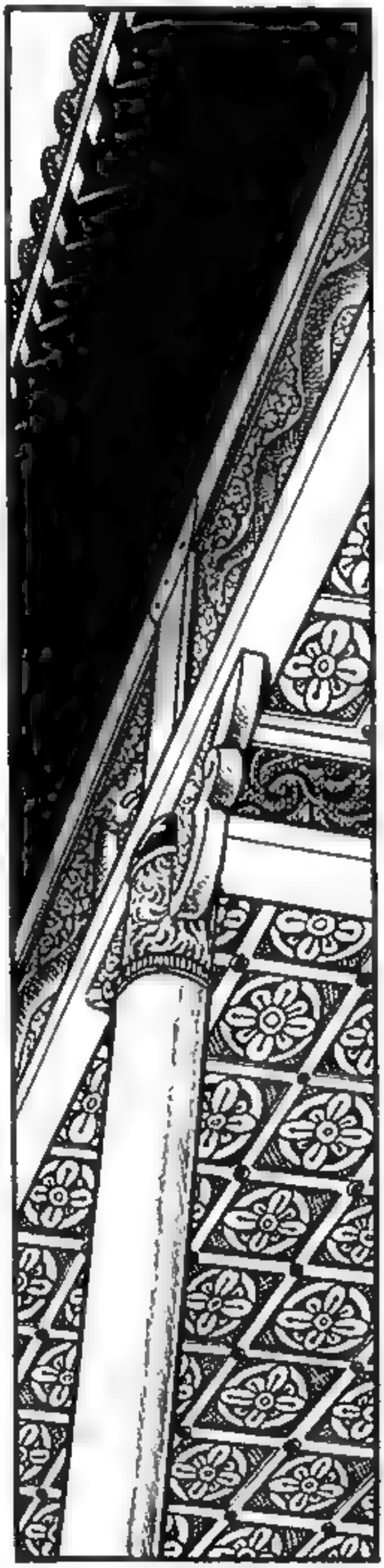
FINE, I SHALL GIVE YOU ONE MORE CHANCE. BRING GUAN YU TO OUR SIDE AND ALL SHALL BE FORGIVEN.

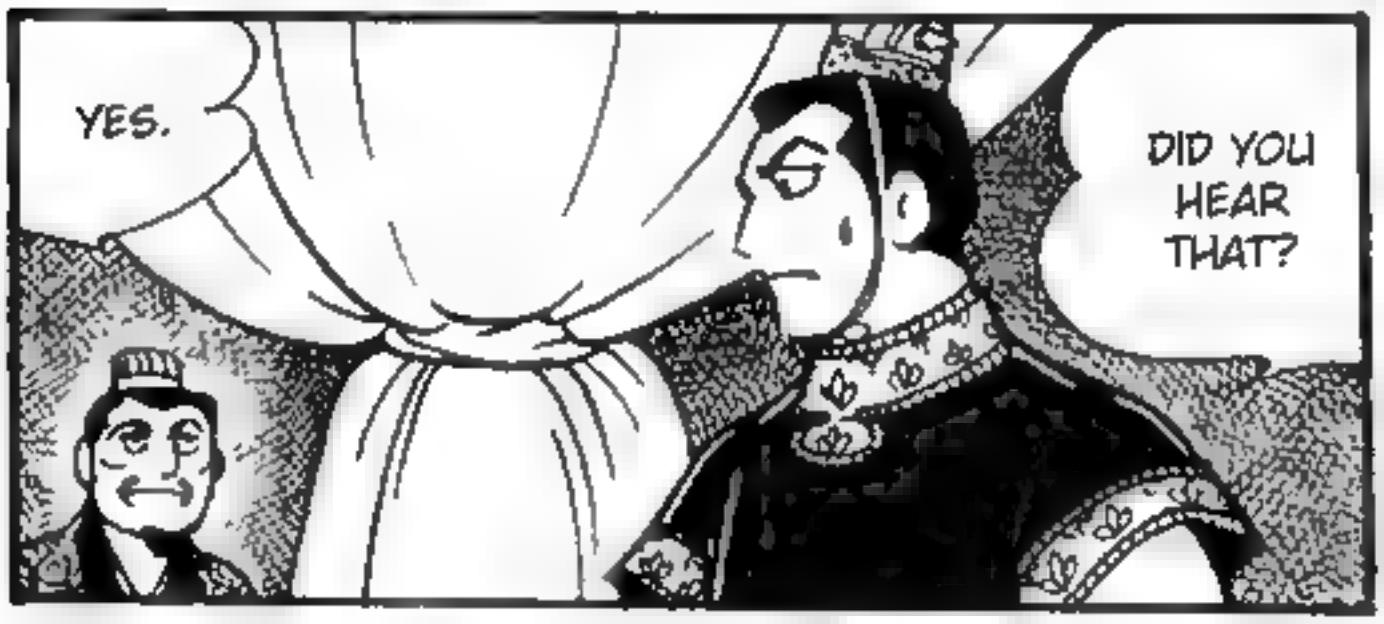
THE WAR CONTIN-UED TO DRAG ON


YUAN SHAO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YANGWU'S NATURAL DEFENSES AND HAD HOLED HIMSELF UP

AS FOR CAO CAO, HE WITHDREW TO XUCHANG FOR THE TIME BEING

NOTICE OF NON-DISTURBANCE





HMM...

I SEE NO REASON FOR HIM TO STAY ANY LONGER ONCE HE HEARS WHERE LIU BEI IS AT.

AFTER SLAYING BOTH YAN LIANG AND WEN CHOU, GUAN YU MOST LIKELY THINKS THAT HE HAS REPAID MY LORD'S KINDNESS.

SIR COULD REFUSE TO SEE HIM OFF.

WELL, THERE IS ONE WAY...

IS THERE NO POSSIBLE WAY THAT I CAN KEEP HIM HERE ANY LONGER?

HMM, I SEE...

WHISPER WHISPER

HAVE YOU STILL NOT RECEIVED ANY WORD OF WHERE MY HUSBAND MAY BE?

UNFORTU-NATELY NOT, MILADY.

M-MILADY!

SOMETIMES, I GET THE MOST OMINOUS FEELING THAT HE MAY NO LONGER BE OF THIS WORLD...

I PRAY THAT'S TRUE...

.....

I DARE NOT DREAM OF IT, MILADY. I'M SURE MY LORD IS ALIVE AND WELL SOMEWHERE.

YOU WOULDN'T BE HIDING THE TRUTH TO AVOID UPSETTING ME NOW, WOULD YOU GENERAL?

BUT JUST WHAT CAN I DO...?

I MUST RELIEVE HER WORRIES SOMEHOW...

ナヤ"!

OVER HERE, GENERAL!

I BRING SIR THIS LETTER.

I POSE NO THREAT, GENERAL. I AM MERELY A SIMPLE MESSENGER.

IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

?

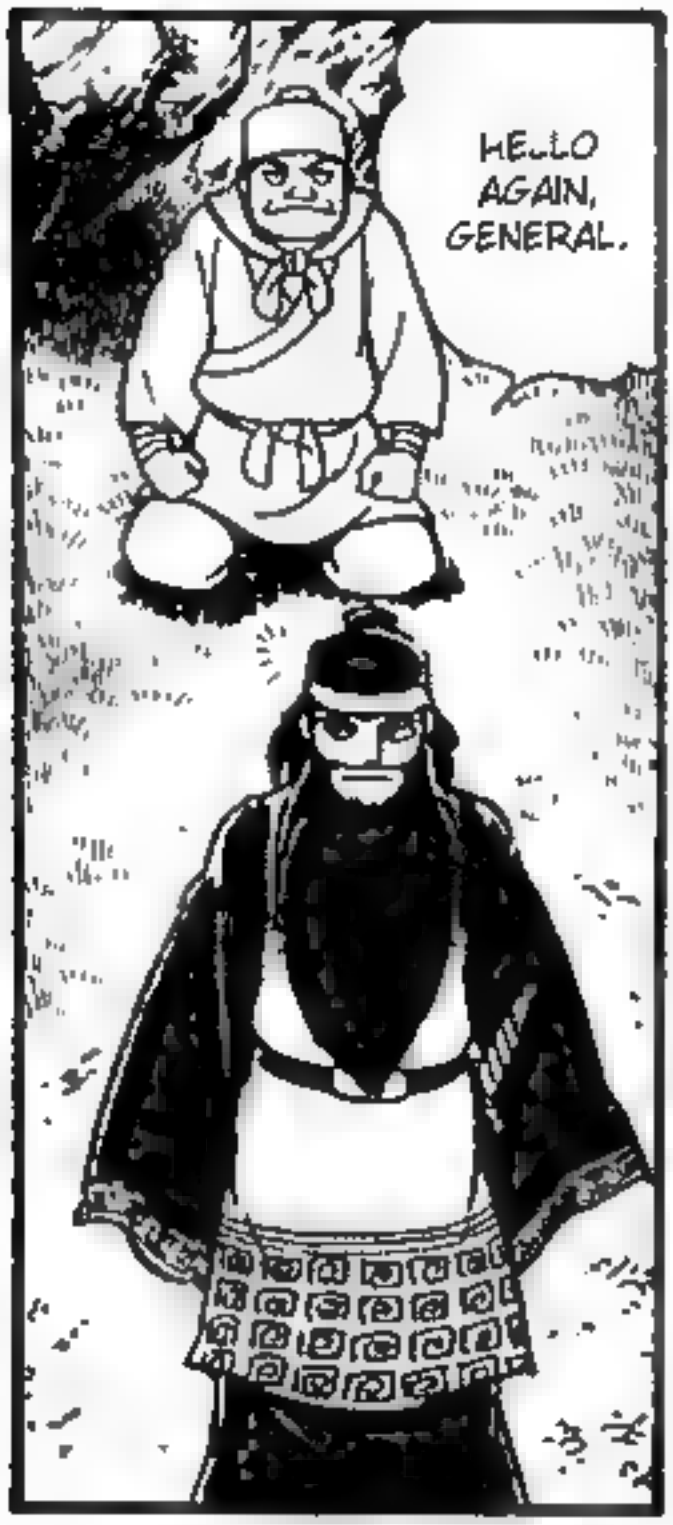
I SHALL RETURN TOMORROW FOR SIR'S REPLY.

STRANGE...

MY LORD...

T-THIS IS A LETTER FROM MY LORD!

SO YOU REALLY WERE STILL ALIVE AND WELL...


HELLO AGAIN, GENERAL.

I AM CHEN ZHEN. I AM UNDER THE SERVICE OF YUAN SHAO.

BOTH YUAN SHAO AND LIU BEI WISH FOR YOUR EXPRESS ARRIVAL AT HEBEI.

YES, BUT BEFORE THAT, I'D LIKE TO ASK WHO YOU ARE.

HAS SIR PREPARED A REPLY?

THEN WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

I'M AFRAID LEAVING WON'T BE QUITE SO SIMPLE, CONSIDERING THAT I MUST SAFELY ESCORT MY LORD'S LADY OUT FROM HERE AS WELL.

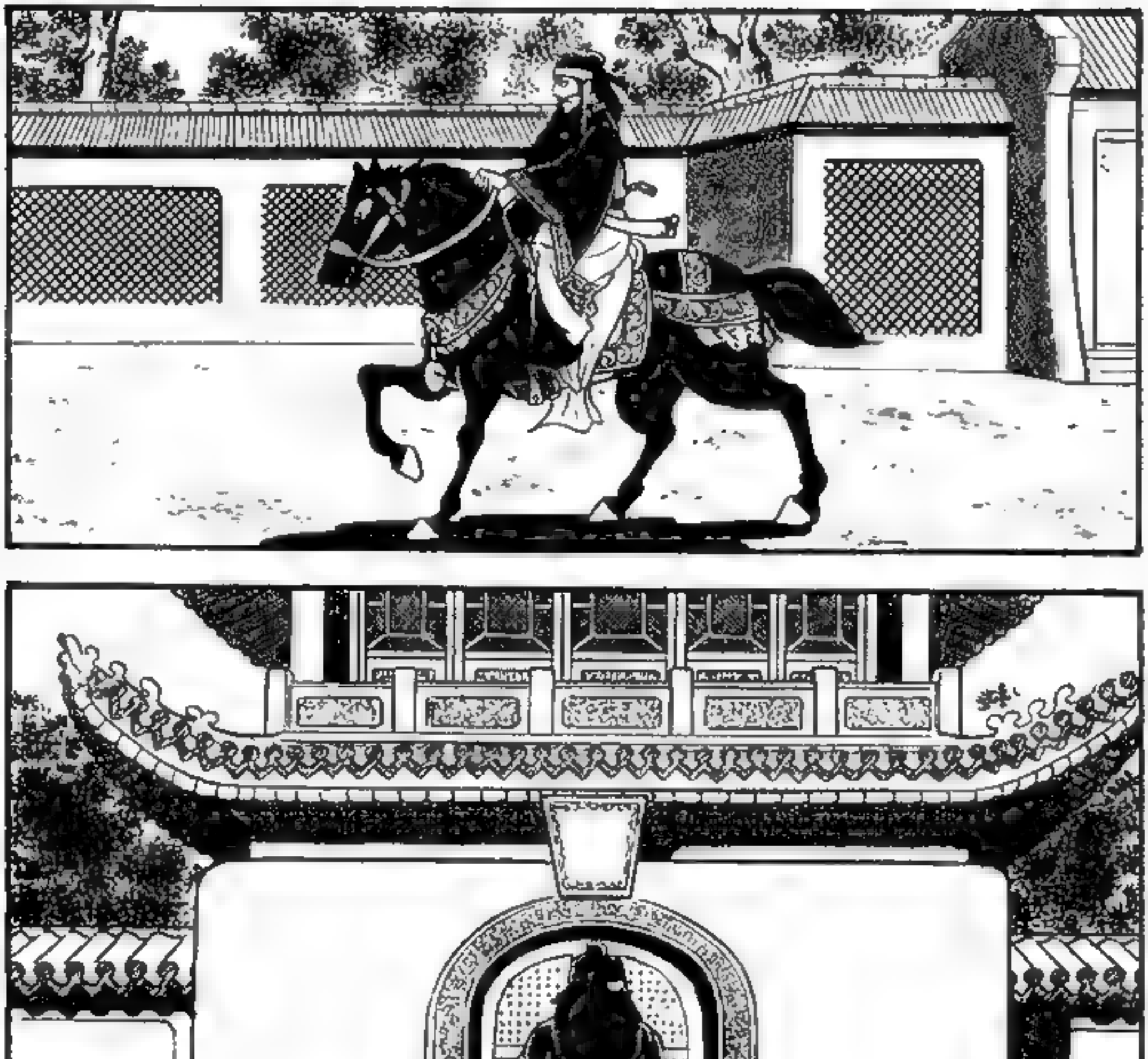
AND WHAT IF HE REFUSES?

CAO CAO HAS ALREADY PROMISED TO LET ME GO IF I KNEW WHERE MY LORD WAS AT. I'M CERTAIN HE WILL GUARANTEE US A SAFE PASSAGE OUT FROM HERE AS LONG AS I ASK.

UNDERSTOOD, I SHALL RELAY BACK YOUR RESPONSE.

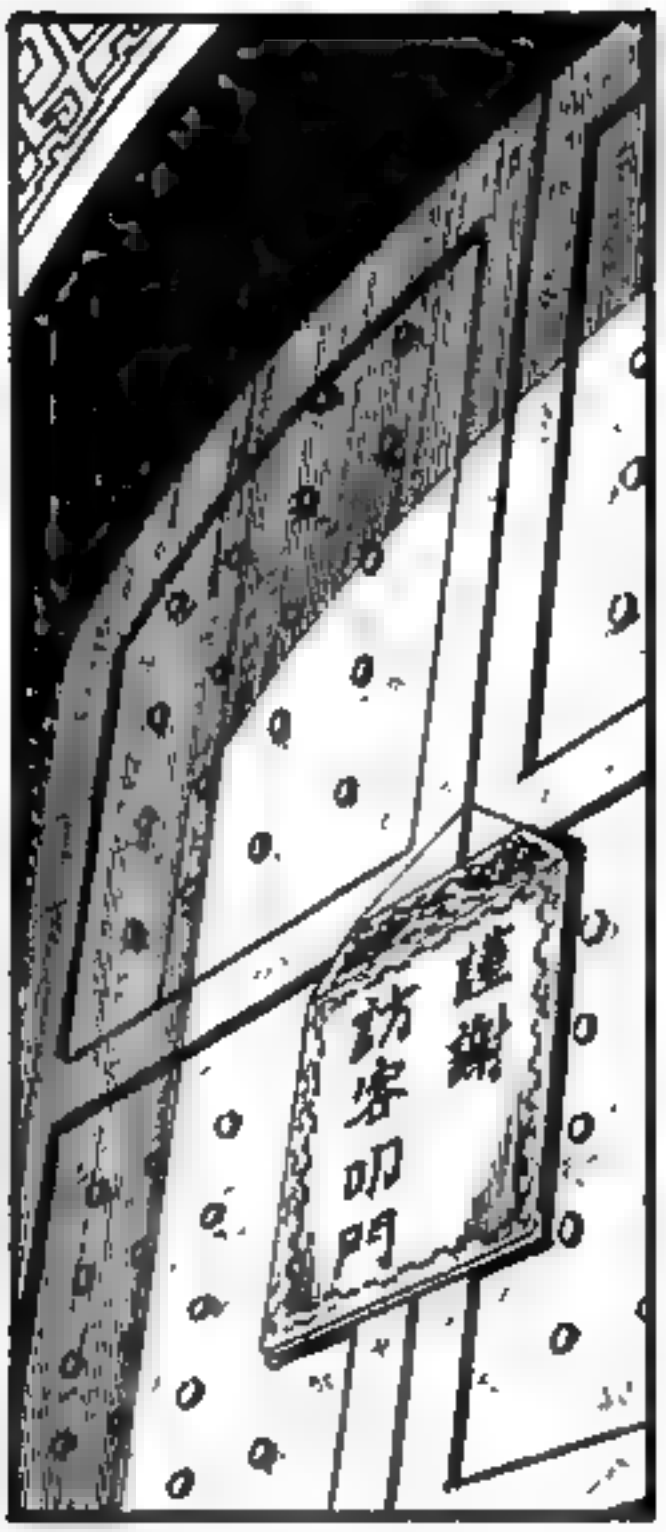
THEN I SHALL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESORT TO FORCE.

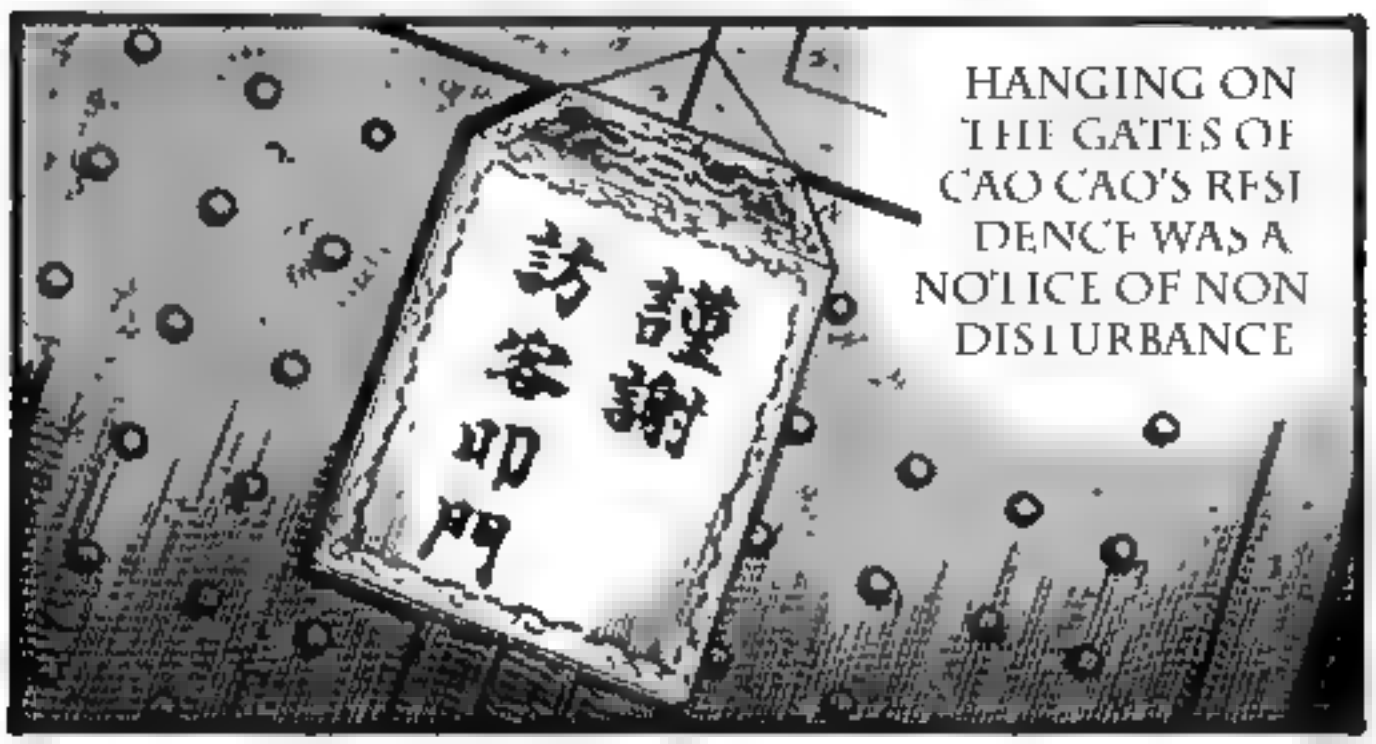
NOW THEN, I MUST GO AND SPEAK WITH CAO CAO.

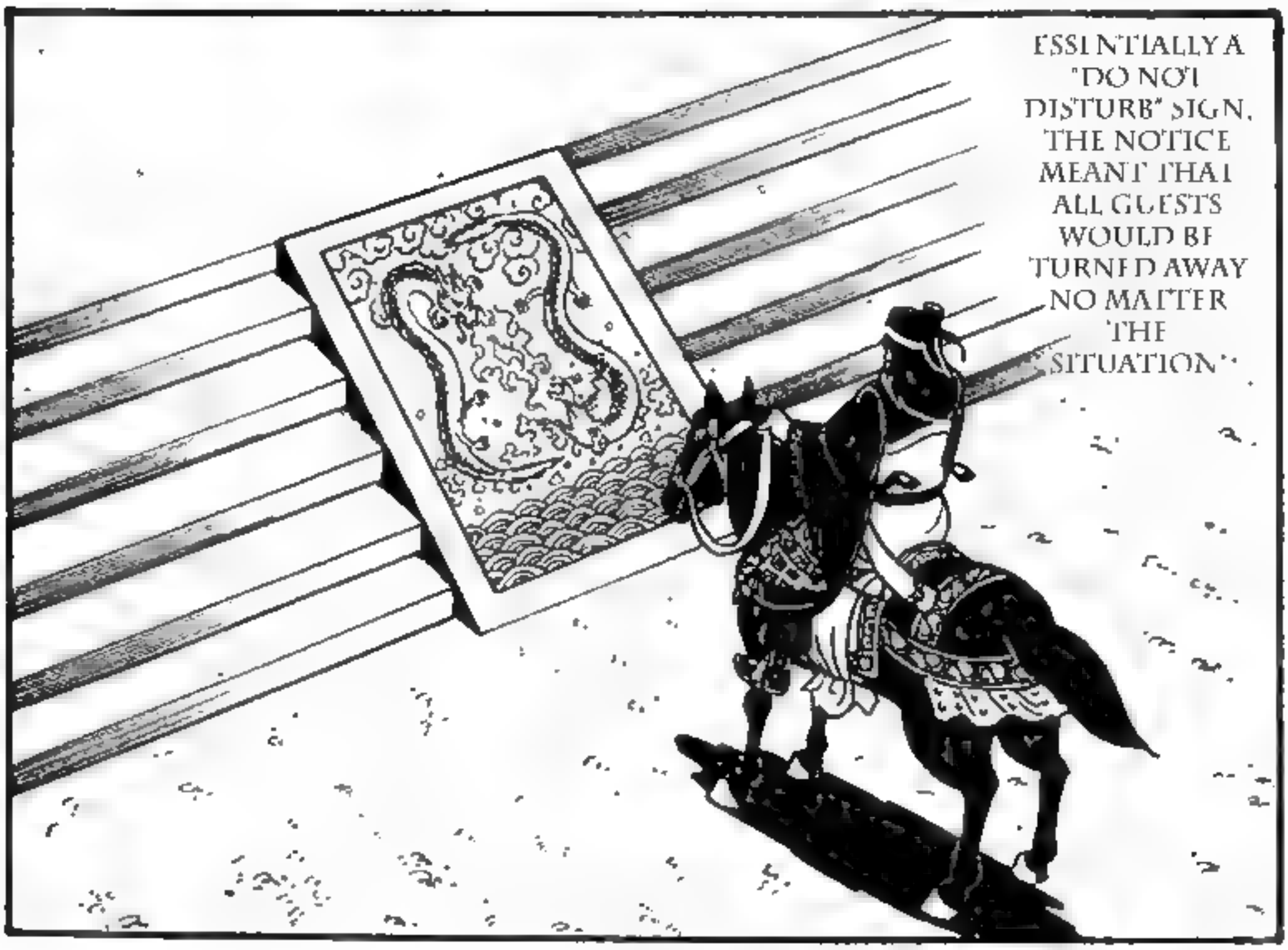


A NOTICE?

HM?


謹謝
訪客叩門

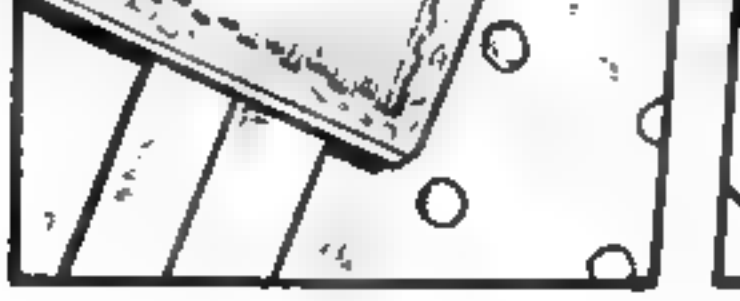

謹謝
訪客叩門
HANGING ON THE GATES OF CAO CAO'S RESI DENCE WAS A NOTICE OF NON DISTURBANCE


ESSENTIALLY A "DO NOT DISTURB" SIGN, THE NOTICE MEANT THAT ALL GUESTS WOULD BE TURNED AWAY NO MATTER THE SITUATION

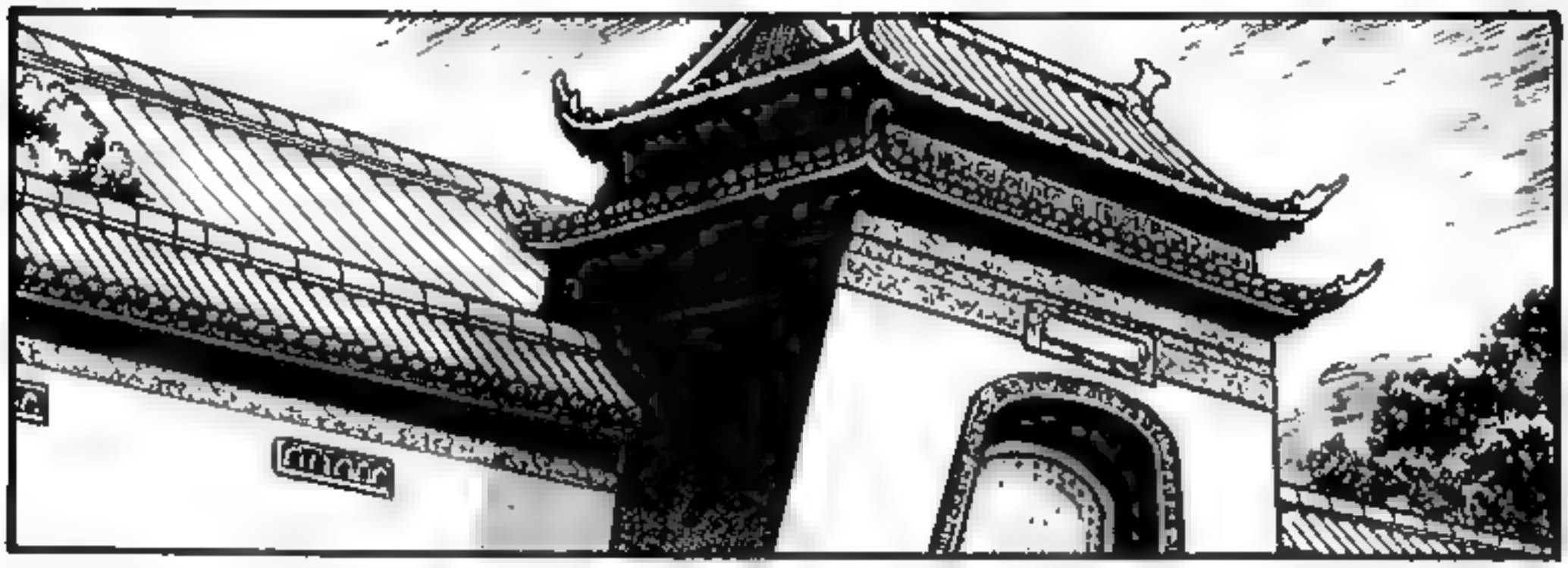
KNOWING THAT GUAN YU'S MORALS WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TO LEAVE WITHOUT PROPERLY SAYING GOOD BYE, CAO CAO USED THIS NOTICE AS A LAST RESORT METHOD TO PROLONG GUAN YU'S STAY.

DAY AFTER DAY,

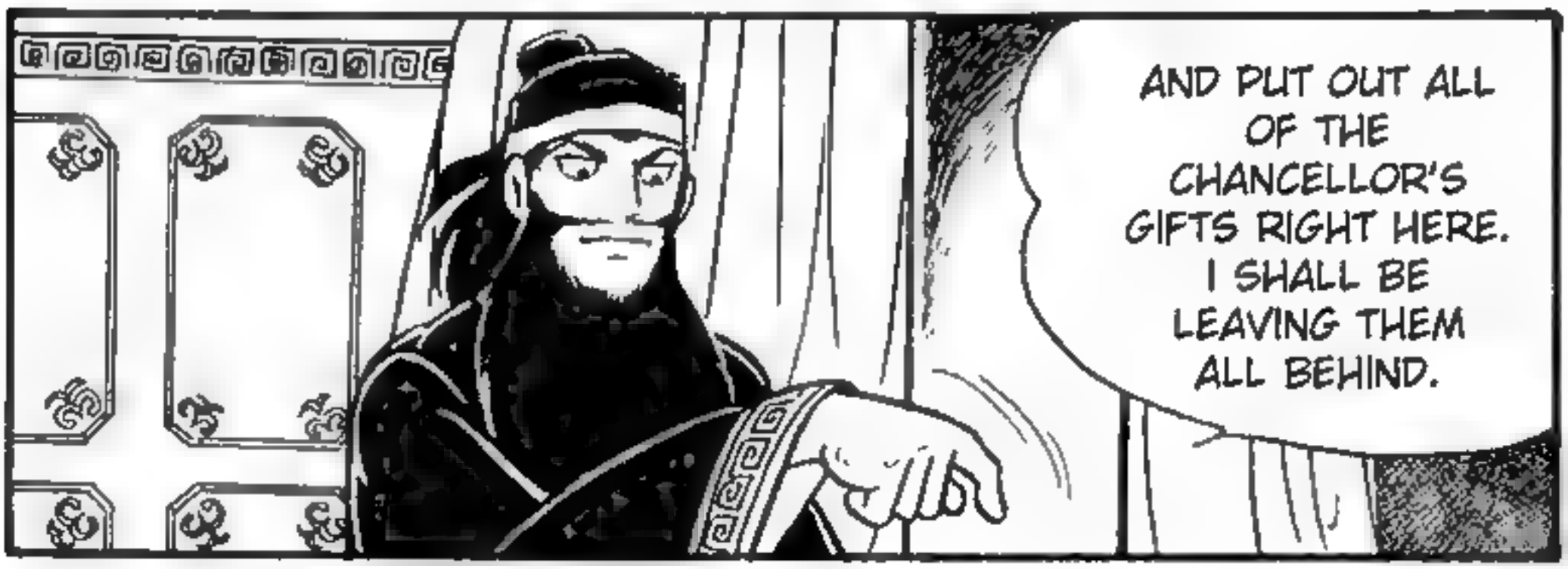
BUT HE WAS PROMPTLY TURNED AWAY, FOR THE NOTICE WAS STILL LEFT HANGING.

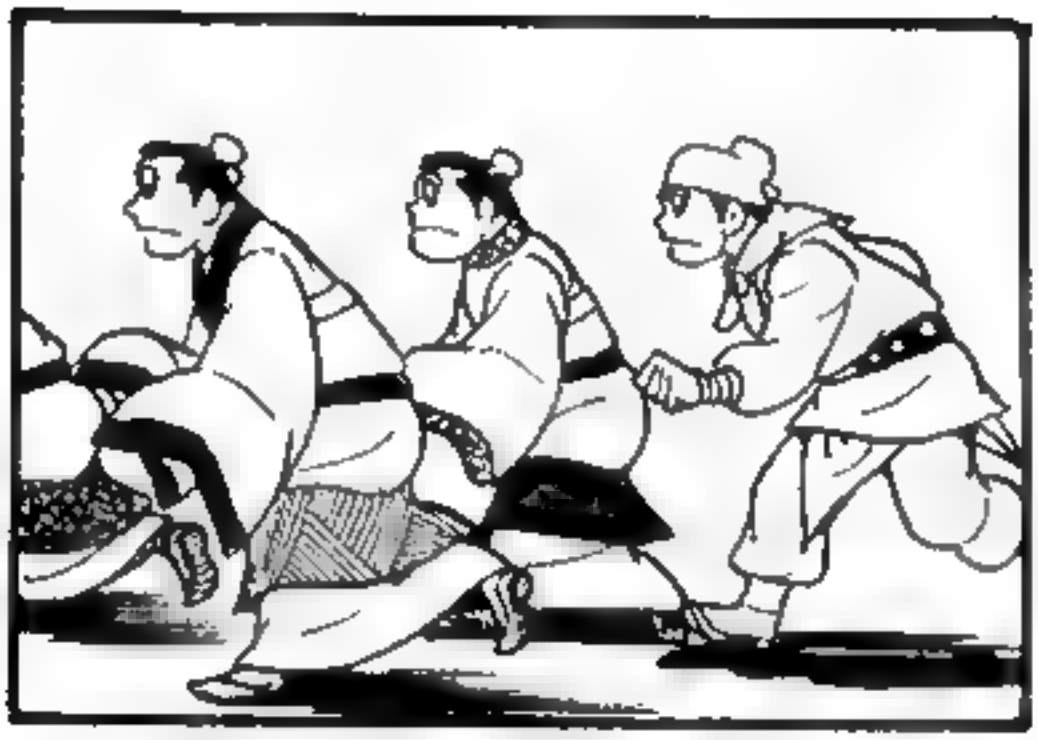


GUAN YU CAME TO SAY HIS GOOD-BYES,



SERVANTS, CLEAN UP THIS HOUSE SPOTLESS.


AND PUT OUT ALL OF THE CHANCELLOR'S GIFTS RIGHT HERE. I SHALL BE LEAVING THEM ALL BEHIND.



ALRIGHT, GET TO IT!

YES, WE SHALL FINALLY BE LEAVING. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MY LORD.

WHAT'S GOING ON, GENERAL?
ARE WE PERHAPS ...

OH THANK THE HEAVENS!

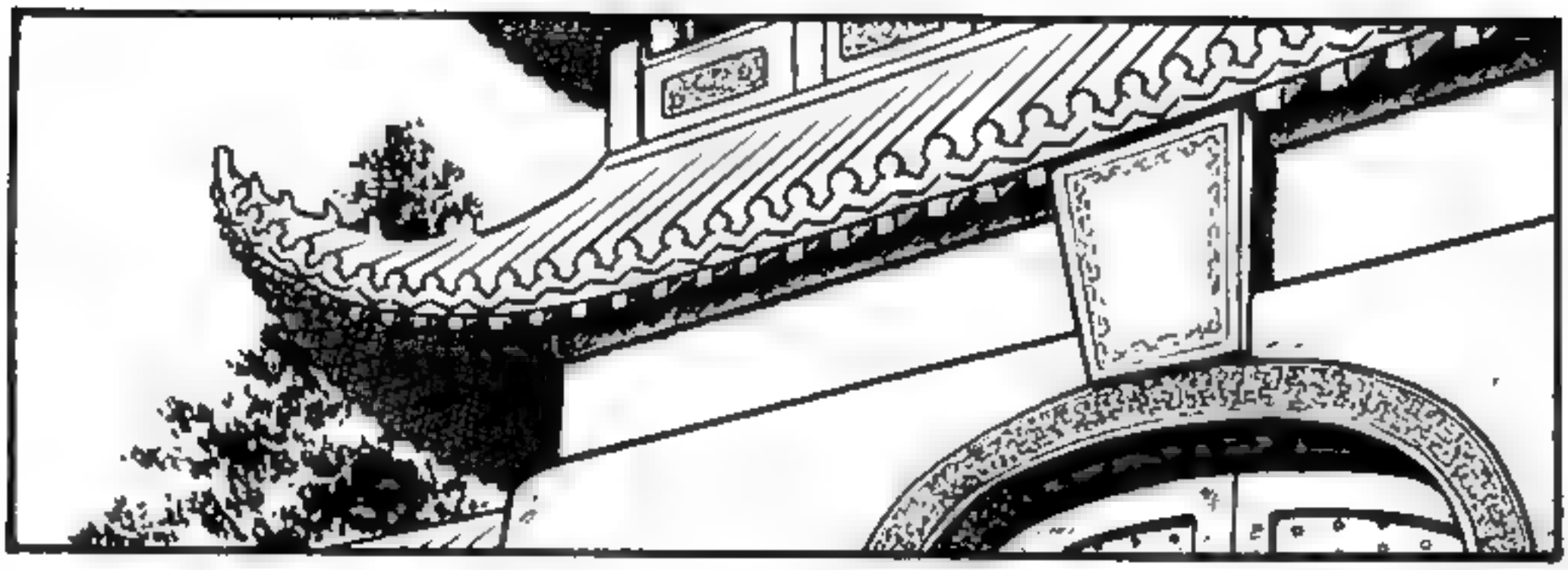
AHHH!

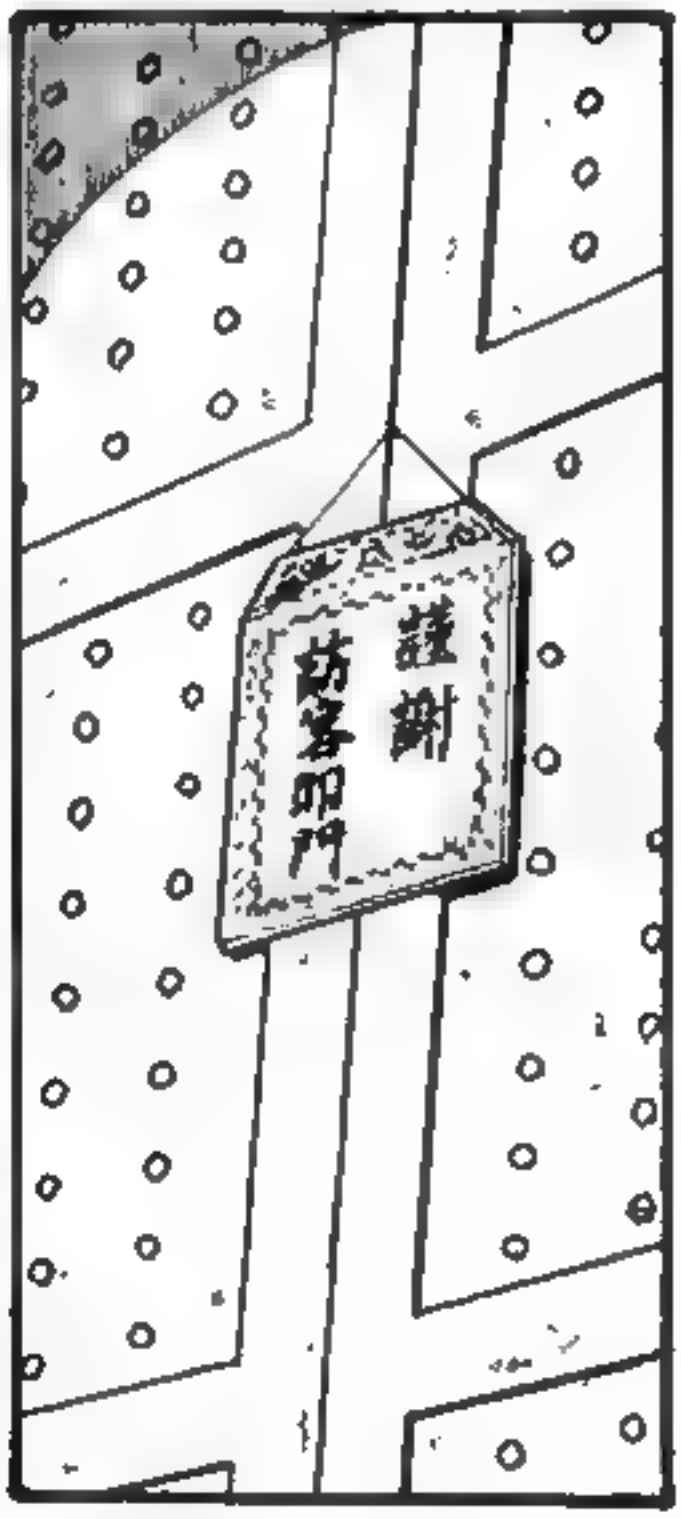
I WILL TRY JUST ONCE MORE TO MEET WITH THE CHANCELLOR.

WHEN WILL WE BE DEPARTING?

WE CAN LEAVE AFTER THAT.

AND IF HE IS STILL NOT AVAILABLE, THEN I SHALL LEAVE A GOOD-BYE LETTER.

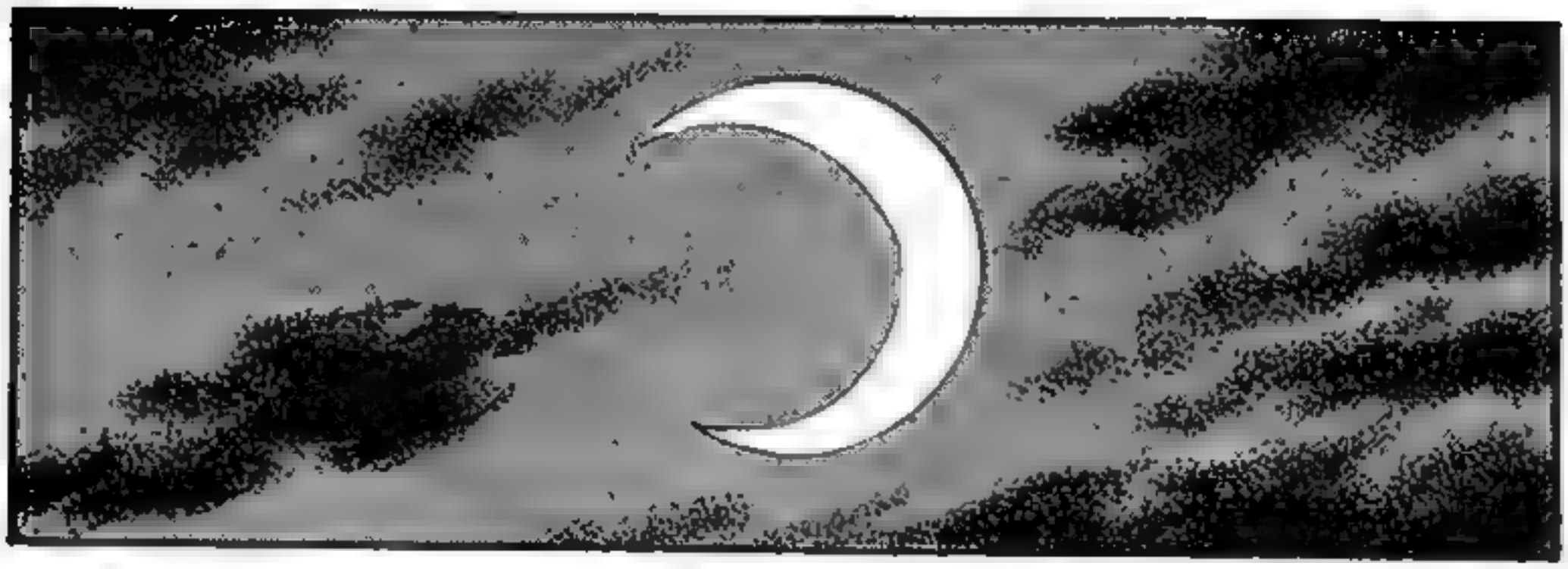


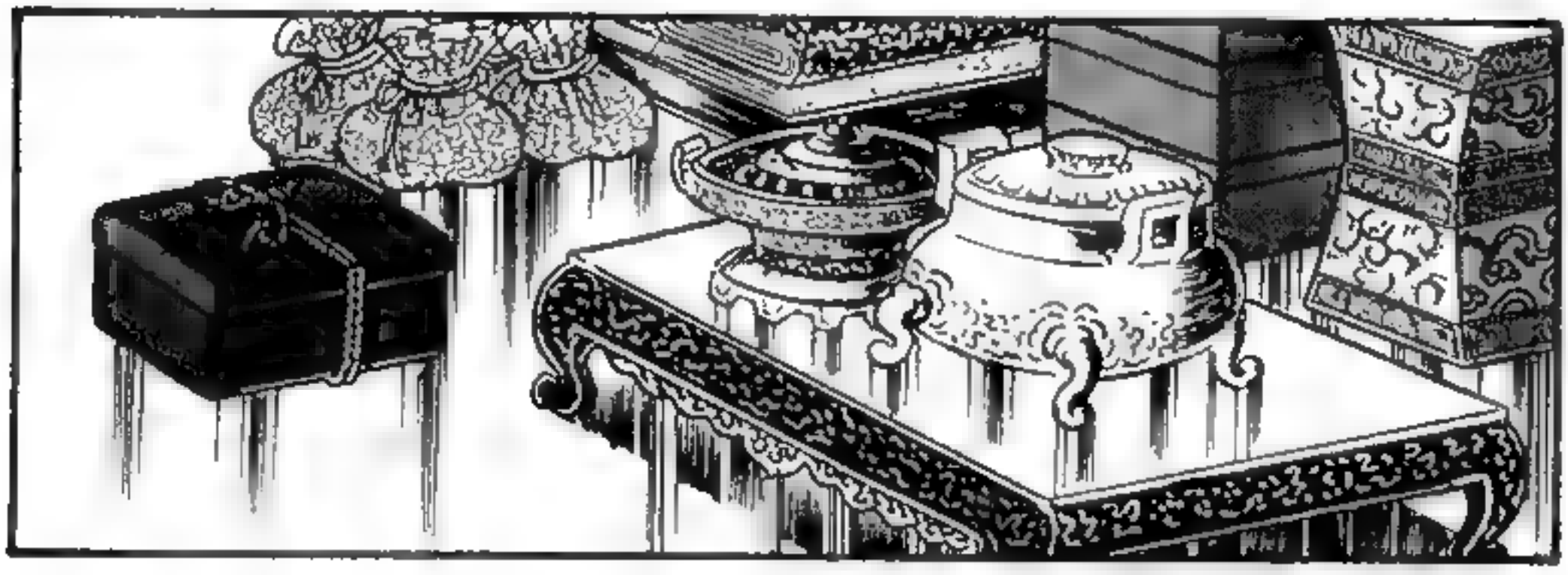

謹謝
防客即門

FORGIVE ME, CAO CAO.
BUT I CANNOT WAIT FOREVER.

I WISHED TO PROPERLY SAY MY GOOD-BYES...

THANK YOU FOR TAKING SUCH KIND CARE OF ME.





THIS WAY, MILADY.

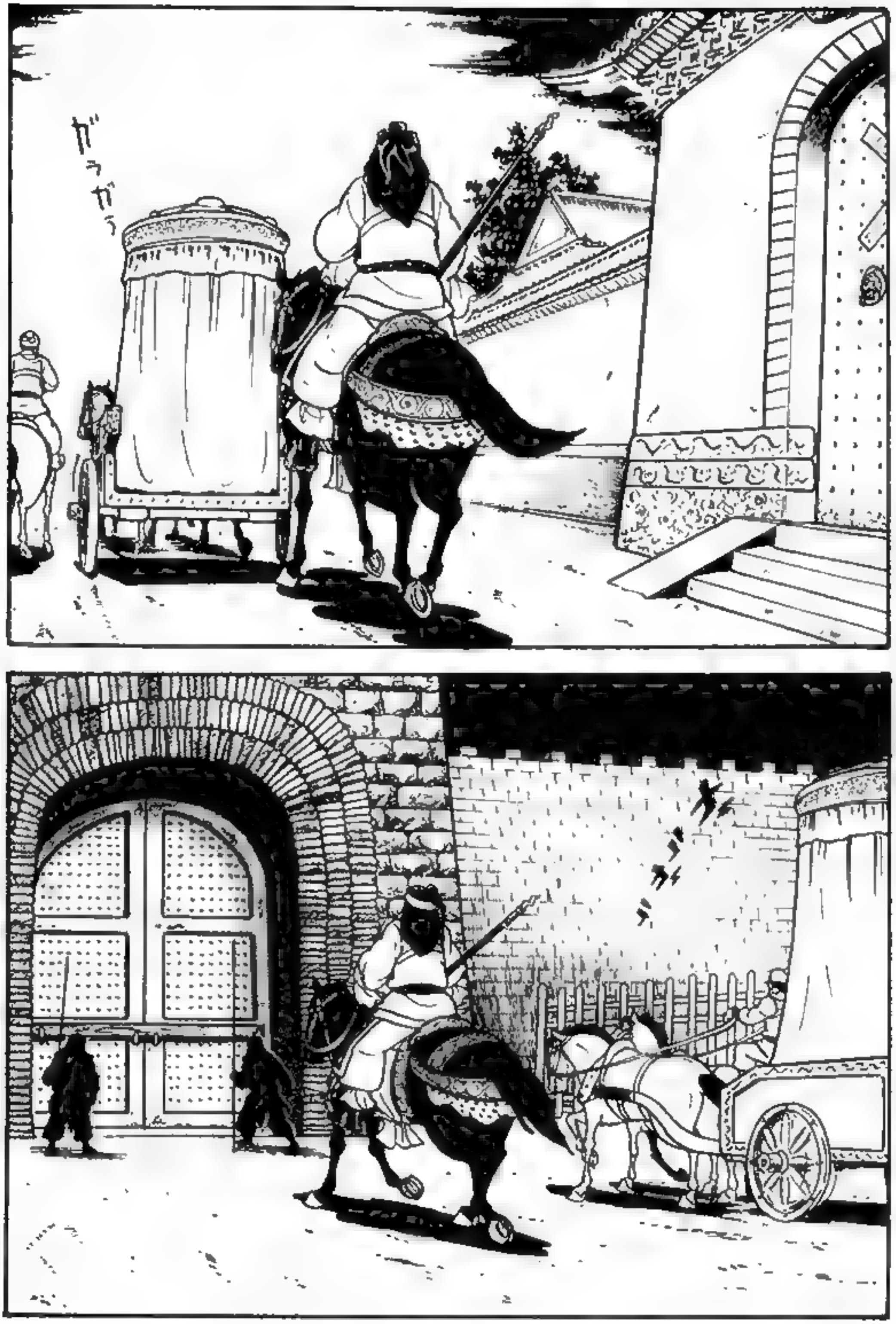
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK YOU'VE DONE.

GOOD, THEN LET US BE ON OUR WAY.

THE DEPARTURE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE, SIR.

COME DEAR, LET US RETURN TO YOUR FATHER.

OFF WE GO!



OPEN THE GATES.

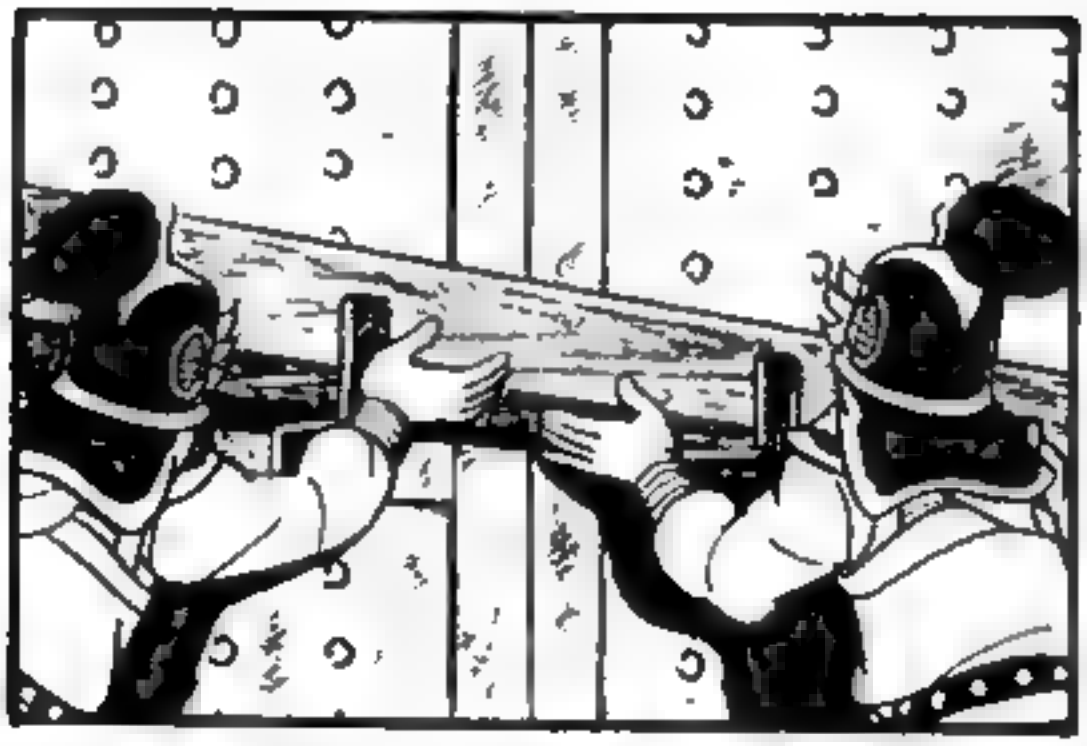
IT IS I, GUAN YU.

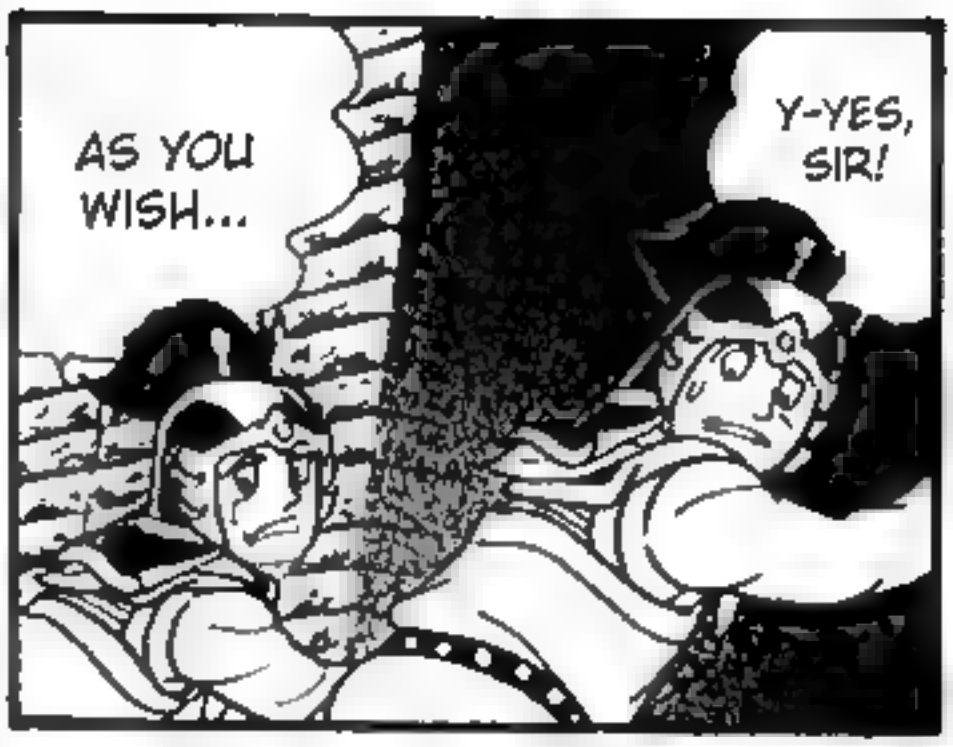
HALT! WHO GOES THERE!?

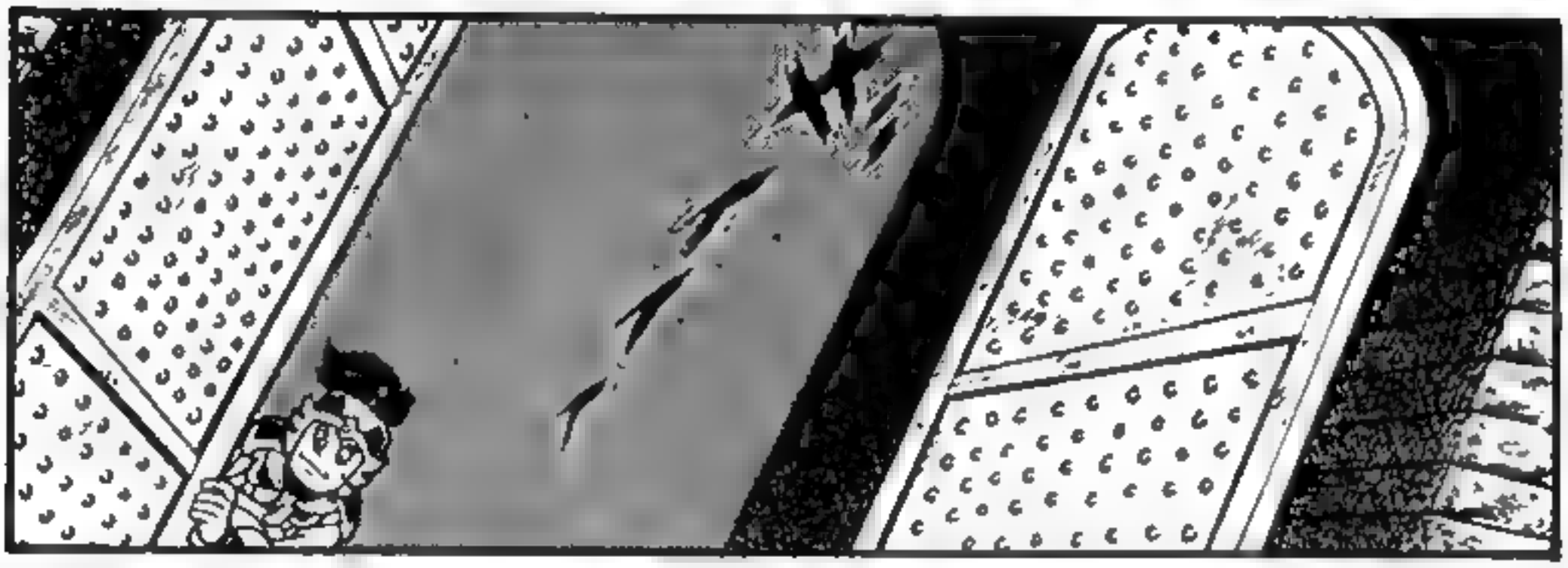
THEN YOU LEAVE ME WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO RESORT TO FORCE!

I'M AFRAID WE CANNOT OPEN THE GATES WITHOUT SEEING A PASS, SIR.

OPEN THE GATES OR ELSE!




AS YOU WISH...
Y-YES, SIR!



N-NO PROB-LEM, SIR.
THANK YOU.

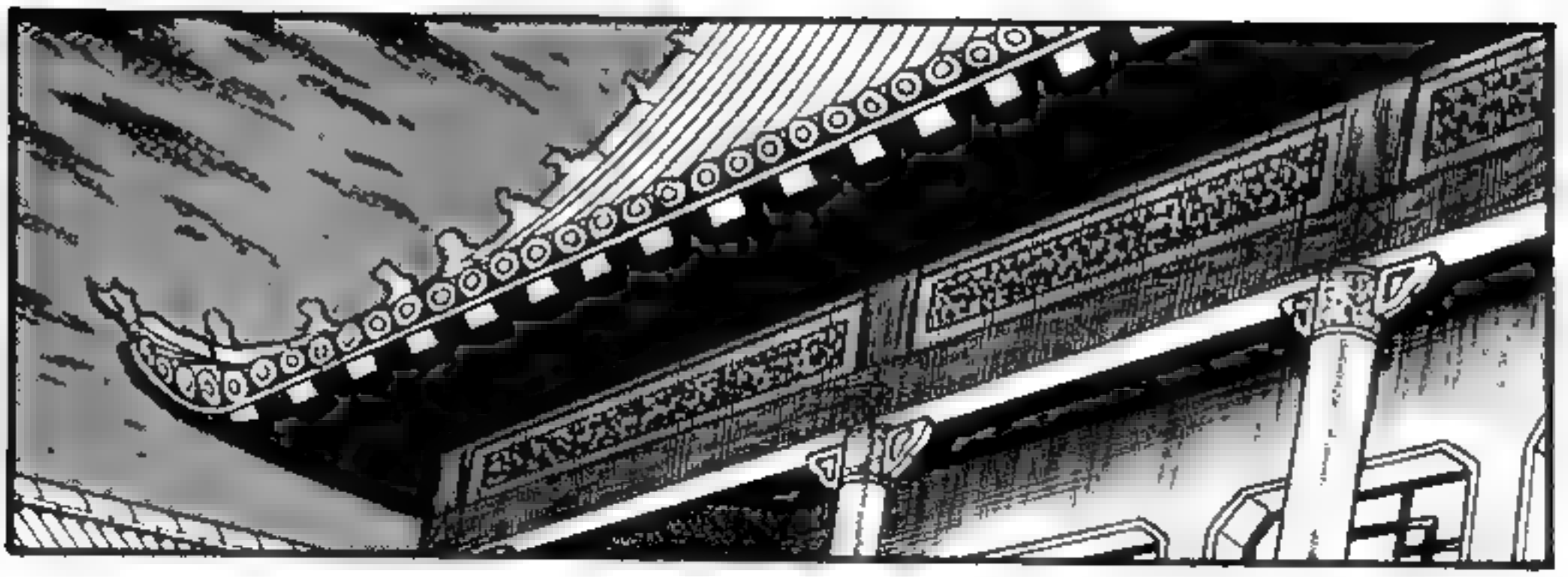
GO REPORT THE HIGHER-UPS RIGHT AWAY!

I ALMOST WET MY PANTS WHEN HE YELLED AT US...!

OH THANK GOD!

THERE MAY BE PURSUERS ONCE THE SUN RISES. I WANT YOU TO PROTECT MILADY AT ALL COSTS.

YES, SIR.



IT APPEARS SO, CHANCELLOR. THE ONLY THINGS LEFT BEHIND AT HIS RESIDENCES WERE THE GIFTS SIR SENT HIM AND...

WHAT!? GUAN YU HAS LEFT!?

A LETTER FOR ME?

THIS LETTER...

IS MY LORD REALLY GOING TO LET HIM RETURN JUST LIKE THAT!?

BOLD AS EVER, I SEE...

I AGREE, WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT AT ONCE!

I AM CERTAIN THAT MY LORD WILL COME TO REGRET LETTING SUCH A DANGEROUS THREAT RETURN BACK TO LIU BEI!

IF I TURN BACK ON MY WORD NOW, WHAT WILL THE WORLD THINK OF ME!?

I MADE MY 3 PROMISES WITH GUAN YU SINCE THE VERY START.

SILENCE!

AND IT'S NOT AS IF HE TRIED TO SNEAK OUT FROM HERE. HE CAME TO SAY HIS GOOD BYES, BUT IT WAS I WHO TURNED HIM AWAY.

WAIT A MINUTE... IF I LEAVE NOW, I'M SURE I CAN CATCH UP WITH HIM.

HOW FOOLISH OF ME... I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM A GRAND FAREWELL BANQUET AT THE VERY LEAST...

I WISH TO PRESENT IT TO GUAN YU AS A PARTING GIFT.

ZHANG LIAO, BRING ME A TRAVEL ROBE AND A BAG OF GOLD AND SILVER.

I MUST GIVE HIM A WARM GOOD BYE SO HE MAY REMEMBER ME FONDLY.

THAT'S TOO FEW TO BE PURSUERS...

ONLY 1 MAN?

GENERAL GUAN YU!

YES, SIR.

I SHALL CATCH UP TO YOU LATER.

BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A TRAP STILL EXISTS. I WANT YOU MEN TO GO ON AHEAD.

NO, OF COURSE NOT. MY LORD HAS NO INTENTION OF BREAKING HIS PROMISE TO YOU. HE ONLY WISHES TO PERSONALLY SAY GOOD BYE. HE IS COMING HERE RIGHT NOW.

WELL IF IT ISN'T ZHANG LIAO. HAVE YOU COME TO TAKE ME BACK?

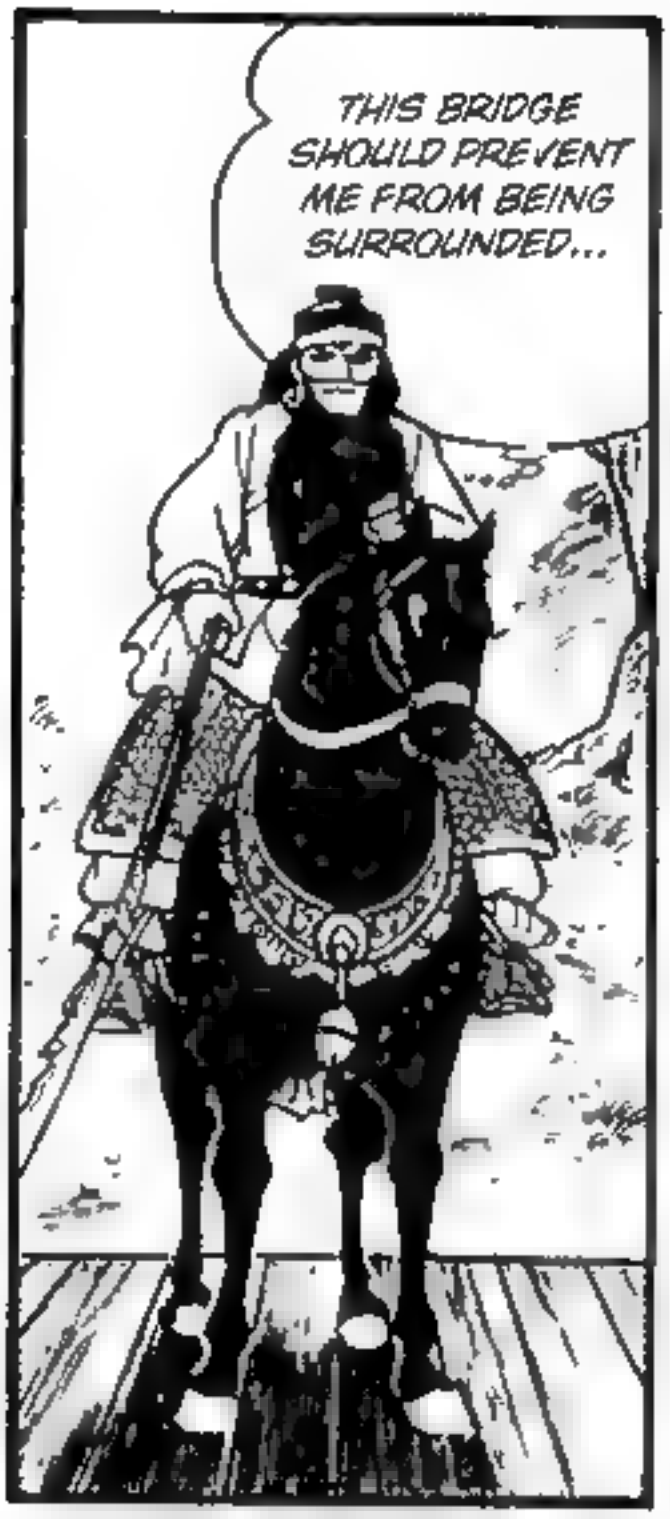
I MUST NOT LET MY GUARD DOWN.

IT MAY BE A TRAP.

HE'S COMING HERE HIMSELF?

W-WHERE'RE YOU GOING!?

?


THIS BRIDGE SHOULD PREVENT ME FROM BEING SURROUNDED...

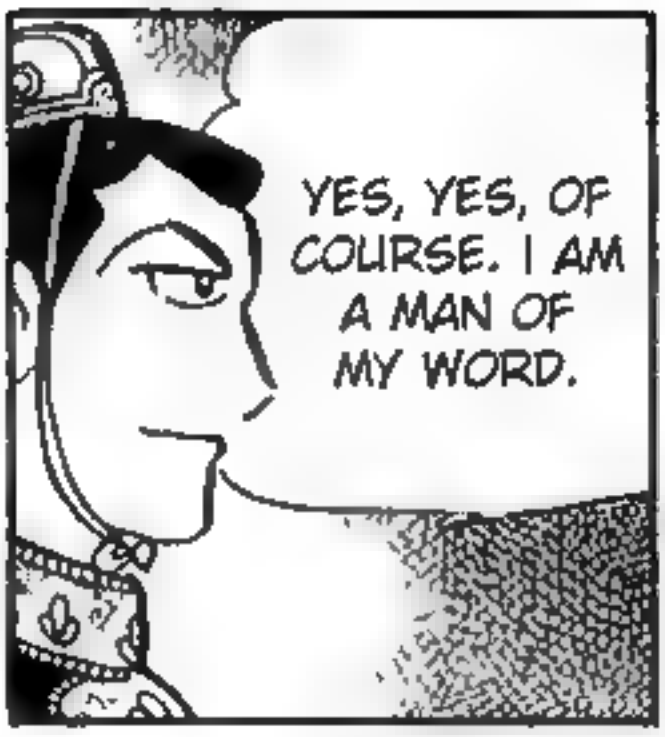
SEE, YOUR SUSPICIONS ARE FOR NAUGHT. THE CHANCELLOR AND HIS MEN HAVE ALL COME UNARMED.

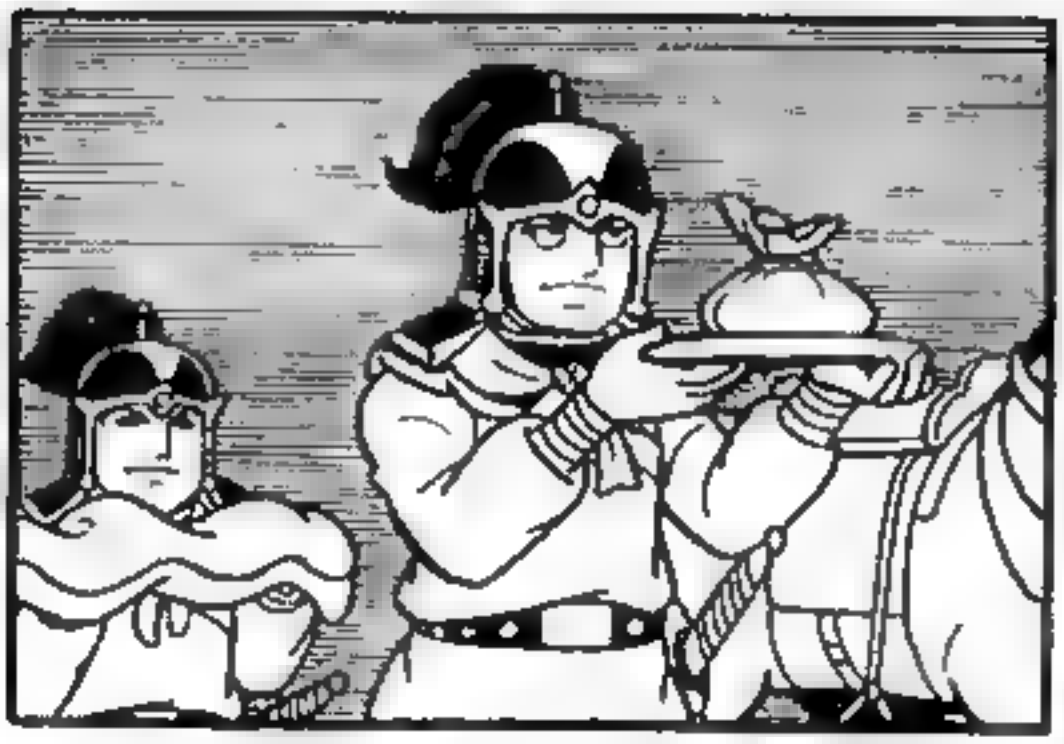
I ASSUME SIR WILL KEEP THE PROMISE WE MADE?

MY APOLOGIES, BUT I RECEIVED WORD THAT MY LORD IS AT HEBEI.

I FOOLISHLY THOUGHT THAT BY DOING SO, I COULD KEEP YOU WITH ME LONGER.

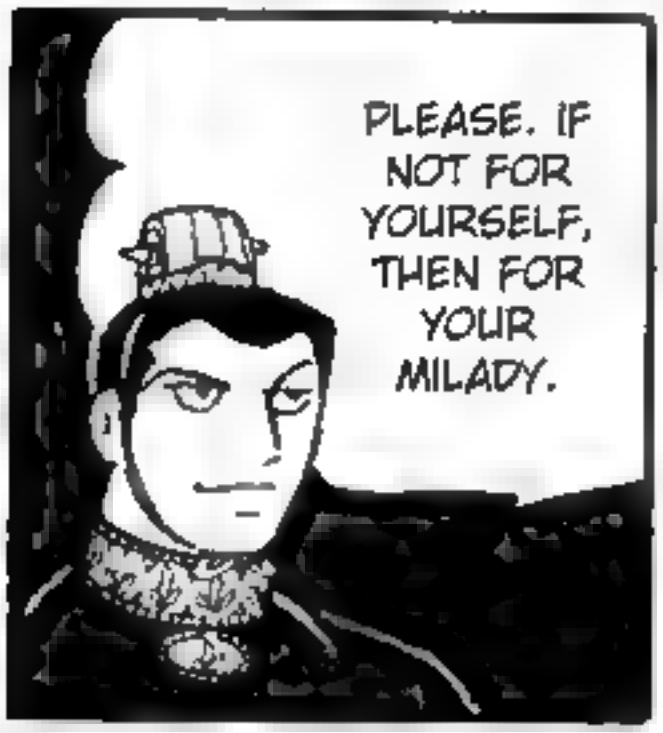
BUT I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR REFUSING TO MEET YOU THESE PAST FEW DAYS.





THAT IS NOT NECCE...

IT IS SOME GOLD AND SILVER TO COVER FOR YOUR TRAVEL EXPENSES. I HOPE YOU WILL ACCEPT.


PLEASE. IF NOT FOR YOURSELF, THEN FOR YOUR MILADY.

THANK YOU, I WOULD HAVE LOST FACE IF YOU TURNED IT DOWN.

THANK YOU, SIR. I AM MOST GRATEFUL.

FOR MILADY ...?

AND THIS IS A TRAVEL ROBE FOR YOU. I HOPE YOU CAN ACCEPT THIS TOO.

THANK YOU, SIR.

FAREWELL, CHANCELLOR CAO CAO.

TO ACCEPT A GIFT WITH HIS BLADE...!

W-WHAT IMPUDENCE!

THAT GUAN YU KNOWS NO ETIQUETTE!

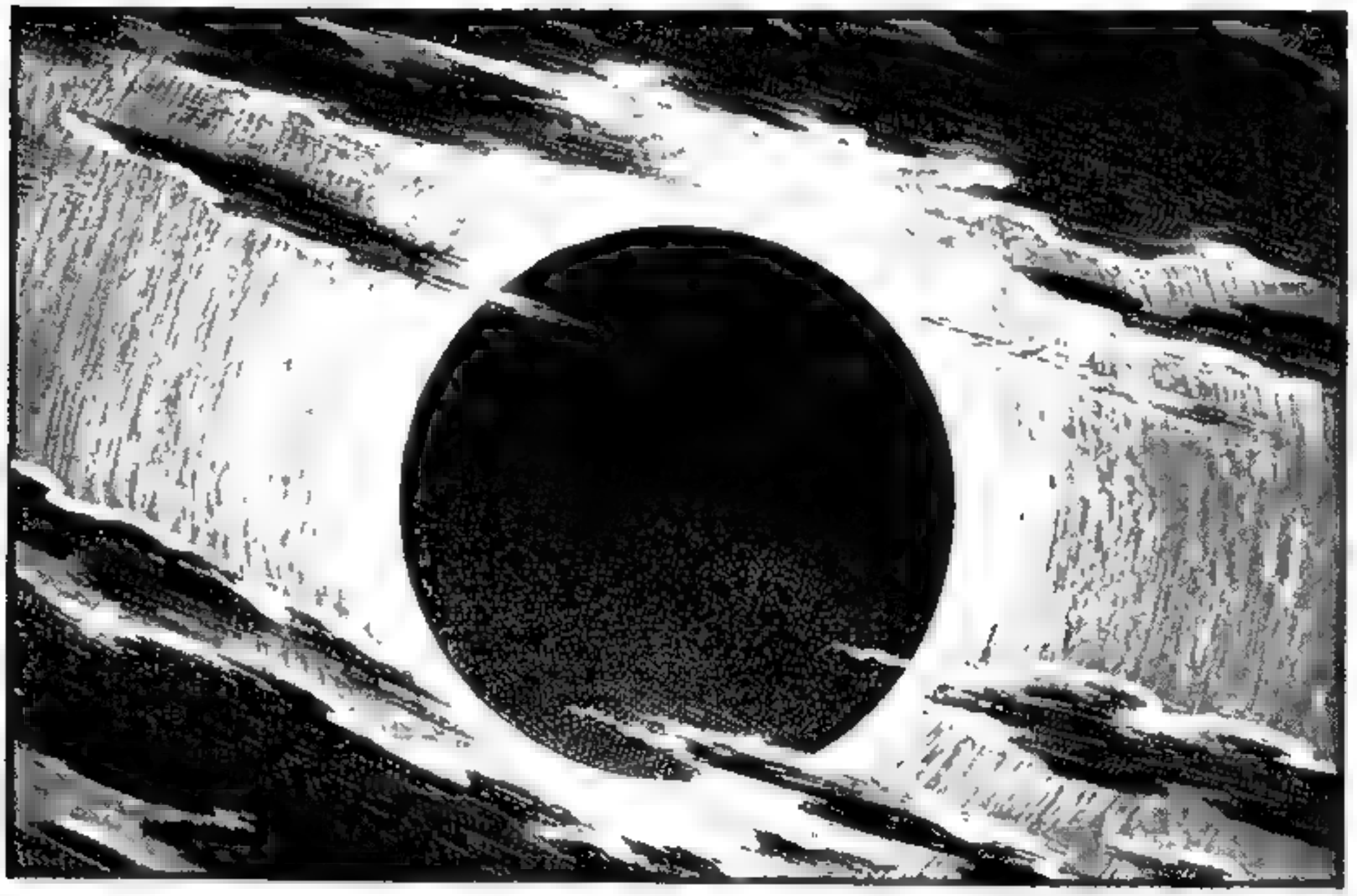
MY LORD! HOW COULD SIR ALLOW SUCH DISRESPECT!?

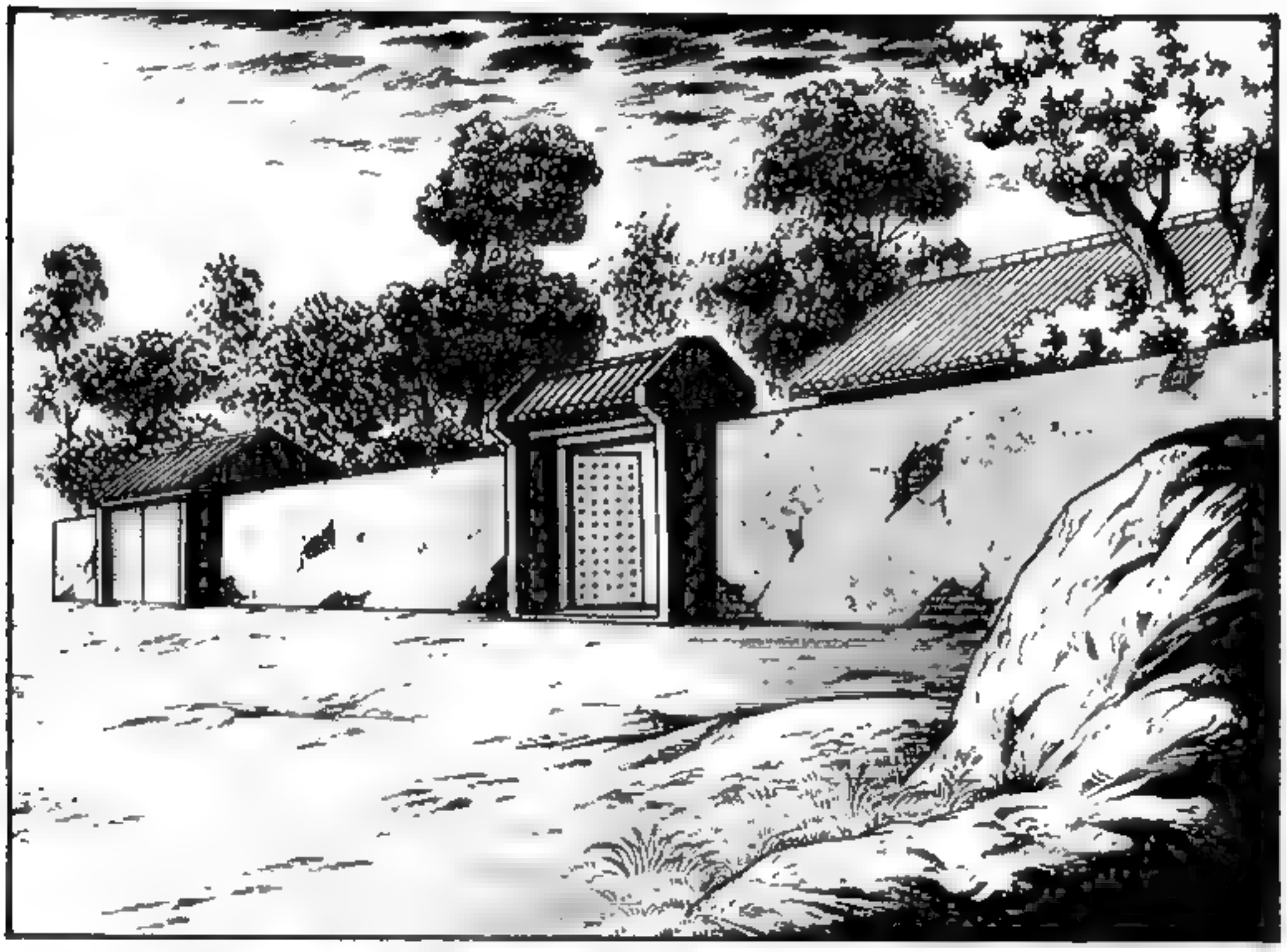
IT IS NATURAL FOR HIM TO BE CAREFUL BY REMAINING ON HIS HORSE.

DO NOT OVERREACT. THERE IS ONLY ONE OF HIM AND 20 OF US.

LIU BEI, WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS HOW ENVIOUS I AM OF YOU...!

BREAKING THROUGH THE GATES





MILADY MUST BE TIRED FROM THE LONG JOURNEY, IT WOULD BE BEST TO STOP HERE FOR THE NIGHT.

HMM, A HOUSE...

WHO IS IT?

IS ANYONE HOME?

I SUPPOSE THAT WOULD BE ALRIGHT BUT...
I'M A PASSING TRAVELLER AND I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD STAY THE NIGHT...

GUAN YU?

WORRY NOT SIR, FOR I AM NOBODY SUSPICIOUS. MY NAME IS GUAN YU, SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI.

I HAVE HEARD A GREAT DEAL ABOUT SIR'S GREAT COURAGE AND LOYALTY.

WHY, YES.

THE SAME GUAN YU THAT SLEW GENERALS YAN LIANG AND WEN CHOU!?

THANK YOU.

PLEASE, COME INSIDE! IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE.

SERVANTS, I WANT YOU TO PREPARE A GRAND FEAST FOR THE GENERAL.

NO, NOT AT ALL. IT'S MY HONOUR TO HAVE A GREAT MAN LIKE YOU AT MY HOME.

I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR THIS WARM WELCOME.

IT'S SUCH A SHAME THAT SIR COULDN'T STAY ANY LONGER.

THANK YOU AGAIN.

AH, I ALMOST FORGOT. PLEASE TAKE THIS LETTER.

I HAVE A SON NAMED HU BAN WHO IS UNDER THE SERVICE OF XINGYANG'S GOVERNOR, WANG ZHI. IF YOU'RE HEADED TO HEBEI, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH XINGYAN SO PERHAPS THIS LETTER MAY COME IN HANDY.
THANK YOU AGAIN, SIR. I AM MOST GRATEFUL.
TAKE CARE, GENERAL.
FAREWELL.

TO GET TO HEBEI, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 5 GATES TO PASS THROUGH.

I SEE...

GENERAL, THAT'S DONGLING PASS.

HMM.

THIS ONE IS SUPPOSEDLY HELD BY AROUND 500 SOLDIERS.

ALRIGHT, JUST WAIT RIGHT HERE I'LL GO AND TALK WITH THE MAN IN CHARGE.

I AM A TRAVEL-LER HEADED TO HEBEI! PLEASE ALLOW ME THROUGH.

AREN'T YOU GENERAL GUAN YU?

YES, I'D LIKE TO PASS THROUGH HERE.

SORRY, I FAILED TO BRING IT IN MY HASTE OVER HERE.

DO YOU HAVE AN OFFICIAL PASS?

CONSIDERING THAT YOU ARE TRAVELLING TO ENEMY LANDS IN HEBEI, I CANNOT ALLOW YOU THROUGH WITHOUT SEEING AN OFFICIAL PASS.

A HIGH RANKING GENERAL SUCH AS YOURSELF SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRY TO PASS WITHOUT CARRYING THE NECCESSARY DOCUMENTS.

NOW SEE HERE. THE CHANCELLOR HAS PERSONALLY PROMISED ME THAT I WAS FREE TO LEAVE.

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO RETURN ALL THE WAY TO XUCHANG AND COME BACK?

THEN YOU LEAVE ME WITH NO CHOICE.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I AM UNAWARE OF SUCH PROMISES.

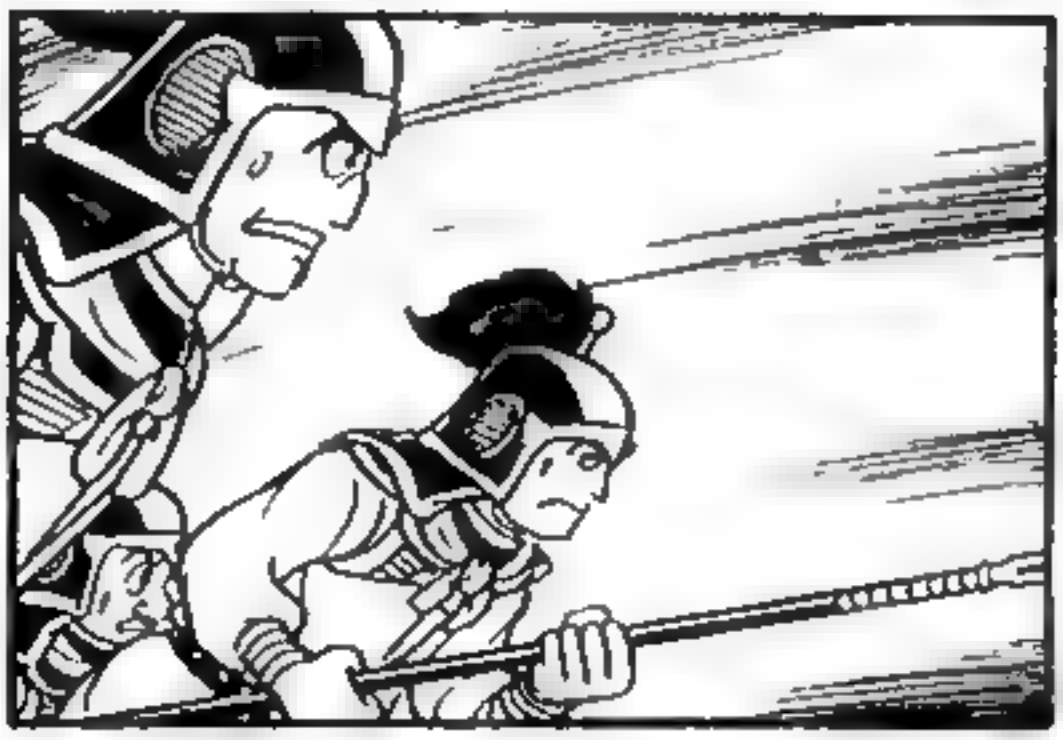
ARREST THIS MAN!

HOW DARE YOU!

YOU THINK YOU CAN THREATEN ME!?

YOU FOOL!

GENERAL KONG XIU!

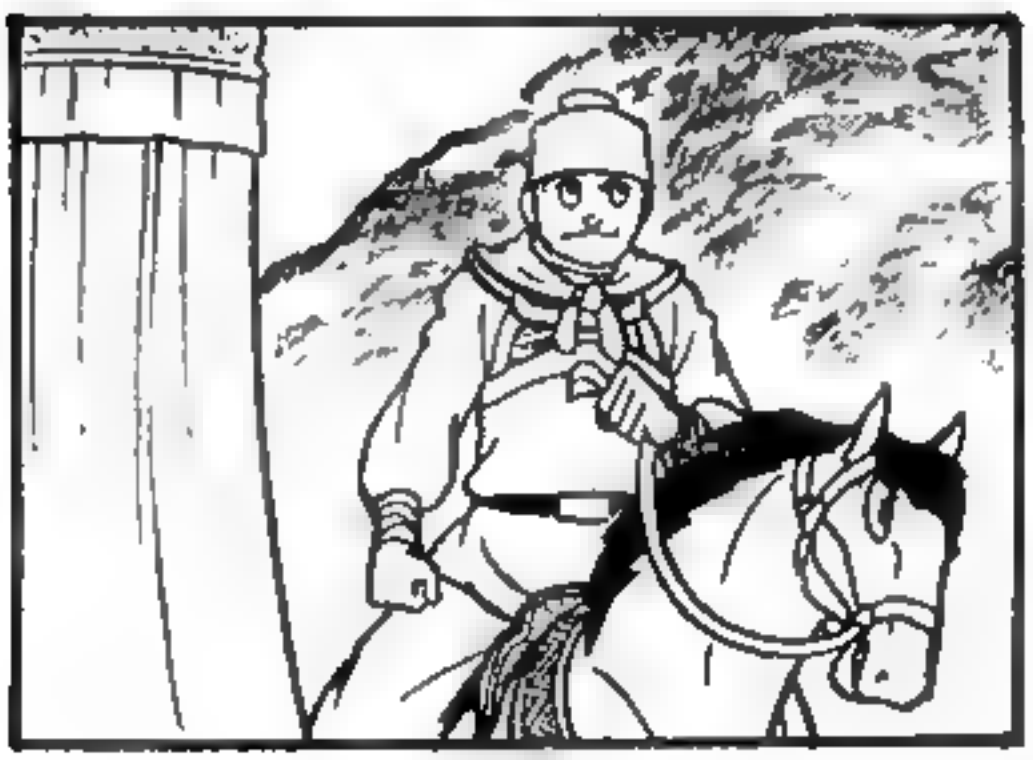


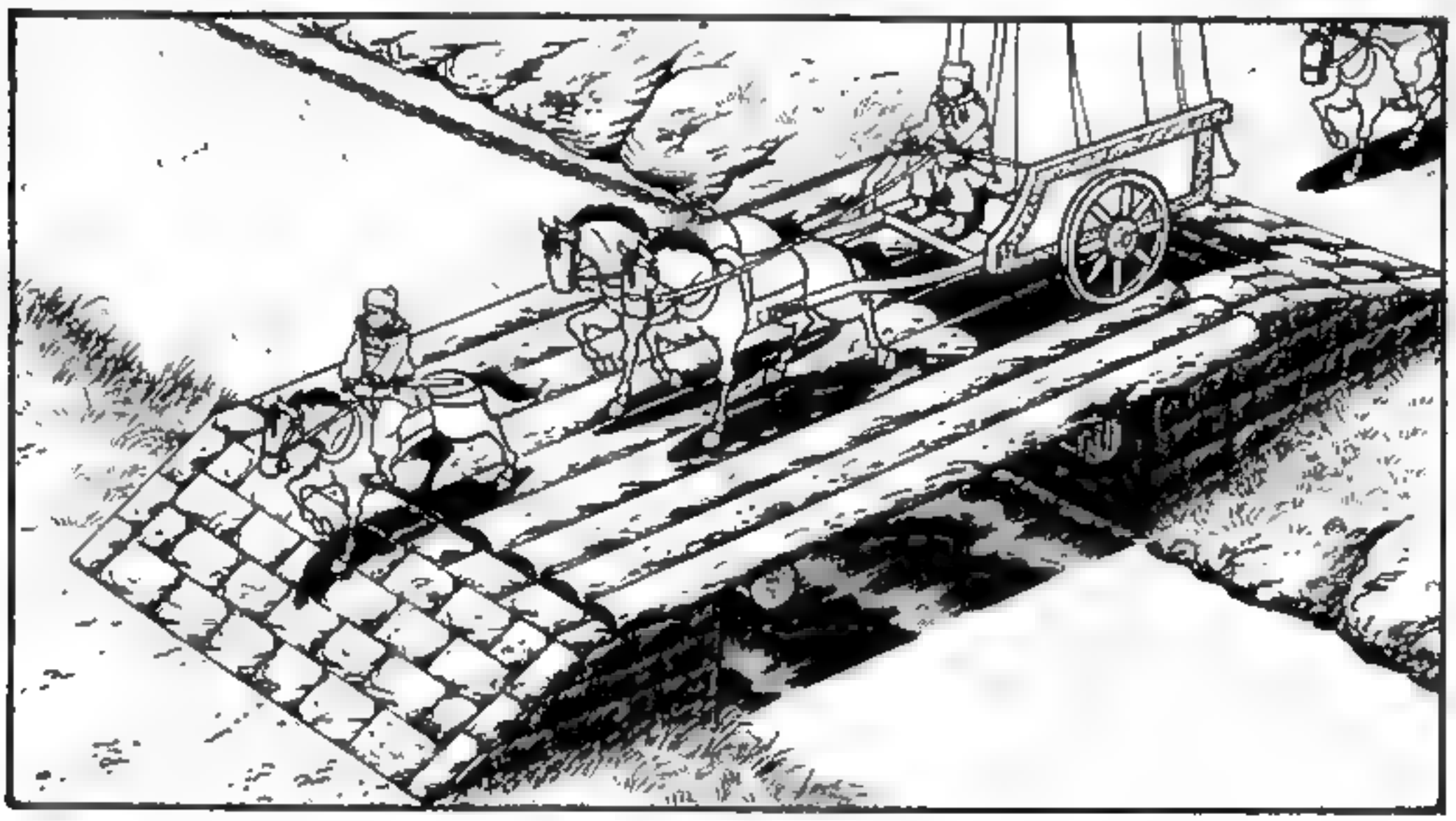
G-GET HIM!

DO YOU WISH FOR DEATH THAT MUCH!?

(GUNSHA!

STAND ASIDE AND I SHAN'T HARM YOU.
AGH!





HEAR ME WELL, SOLDIERS! REPORT TO YOUR SUPERIORS THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAS PERSONALLY PERMITTED ME TO PASS THROUGH HERE. I HAVE NOT BROKEN ANY LAWS.

WHY THAT ARROGANT SON OF A...!

YES, SIR.

WHAT!? GUAN YU HAS KILLED KONG XIU AND ILLEGALLY BROKE THROUGH DONGLING PASS?

YES, SIR.

PREPARE THE TROOPS AT ONCE!

AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE, YOU SHALL NOT PASS, GUAN YU...!

SIR, WE'RE APPRO-ACHING LUOYANG PASS.

YES...

WAIT HERE.

SIR! GUAN YU IS HEADING HERE RIGHT NOW!

SO HE'S ARRIVED, I SEE.

HMM?

LET'S MOVE OUT!

DO YOU HAVE A PASS WITH YOU?
HELLO SIR, I MERELY WISH TO TRAVEL TO HEBEI.

YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST WALTZ YOUR WAY THROUGH HERE WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION!?

UNFORTUNATELY NO...

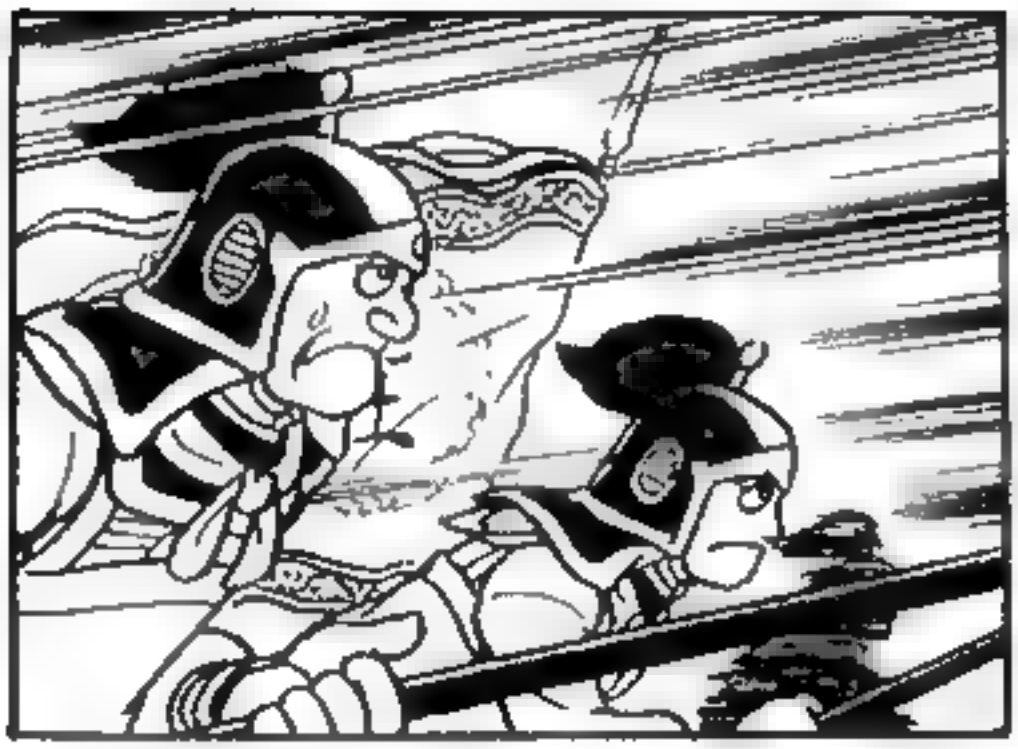
I ALREADY KNOW OF THE CHAOS YOU CAUSED AT DONGLING PASS!

GUARDS! ARREST THIS MAN!

I ASSUME YOU'D ALSO LIKE TO LOSE YOUR HEAD LIKE KONG XIU THEN?

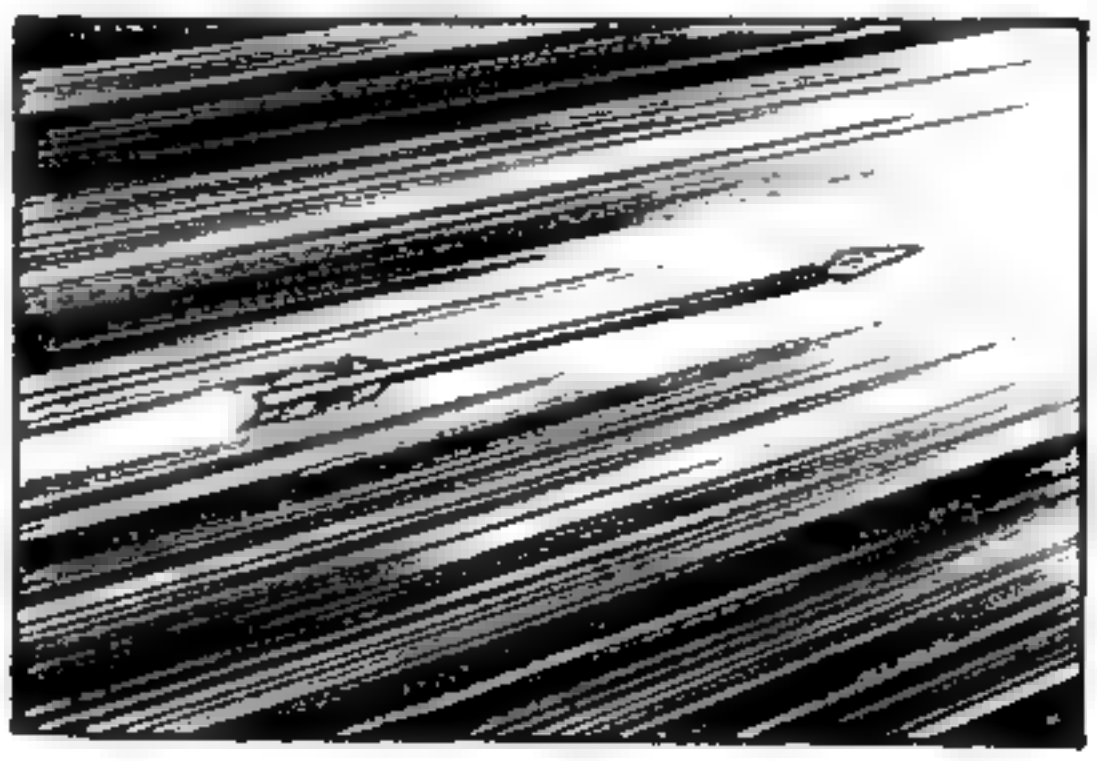
NGHH...!

GENERAL MENG TAN!

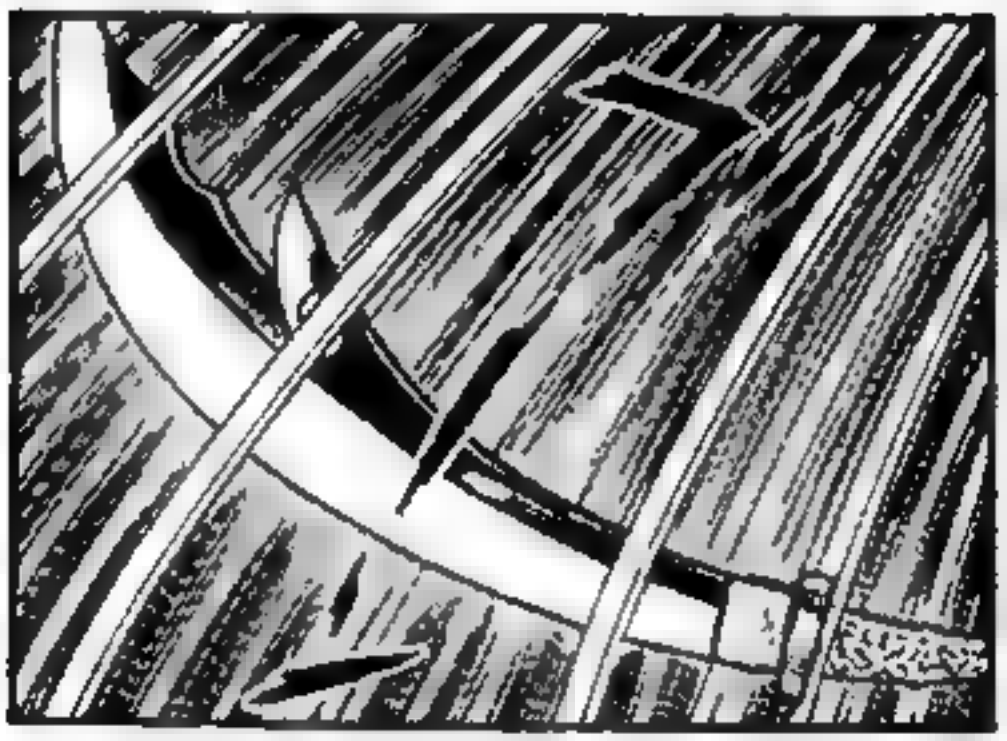


DON'T JUST STAND THERE! ATTACK!

AGH!

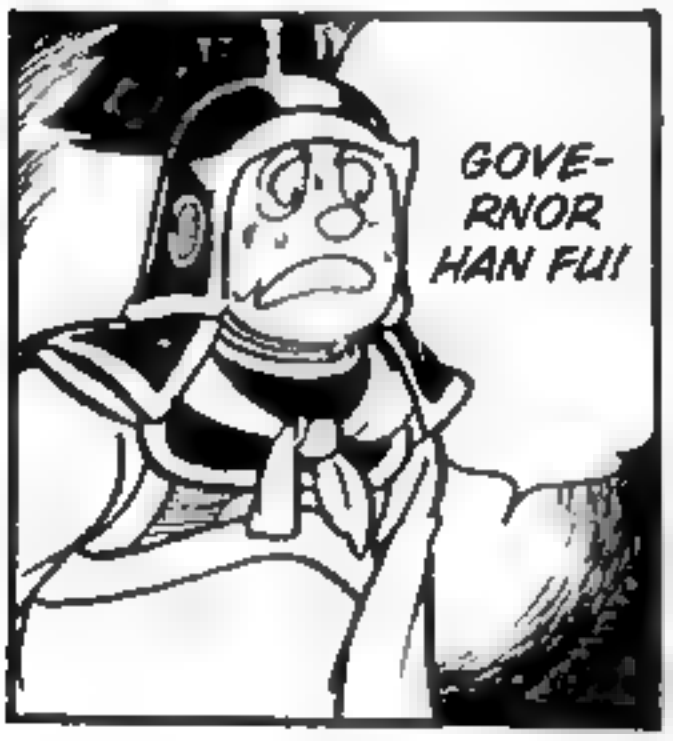


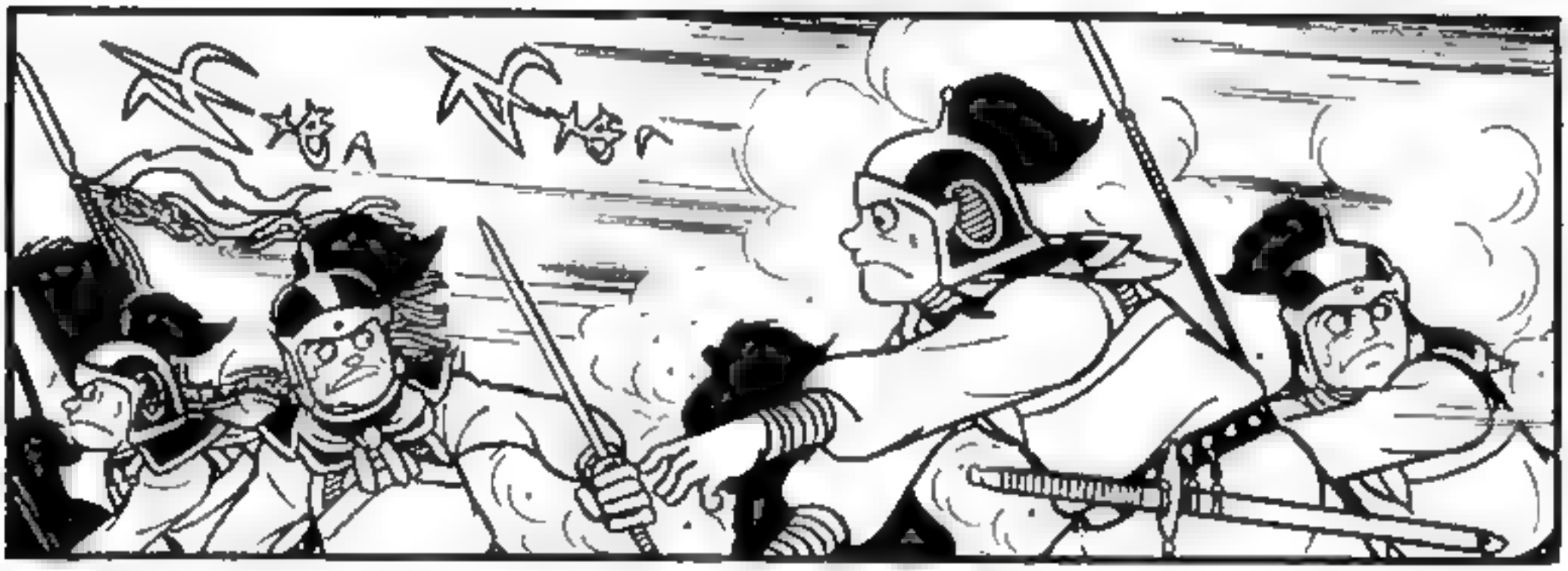
ACK!

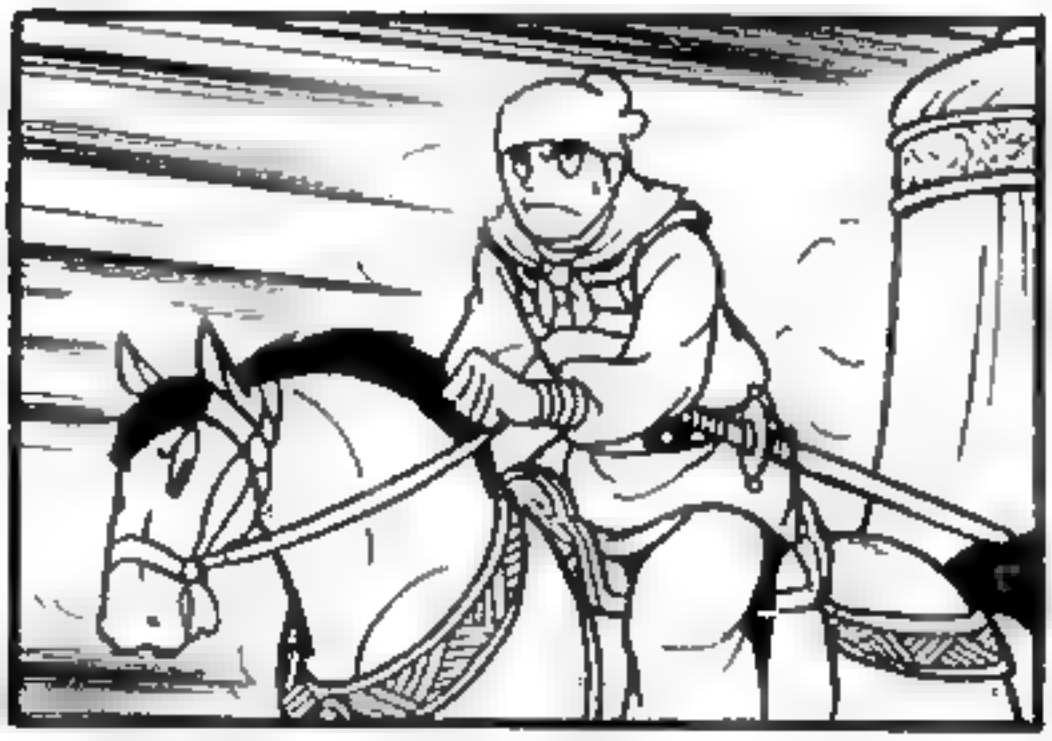


WHY YOU...!

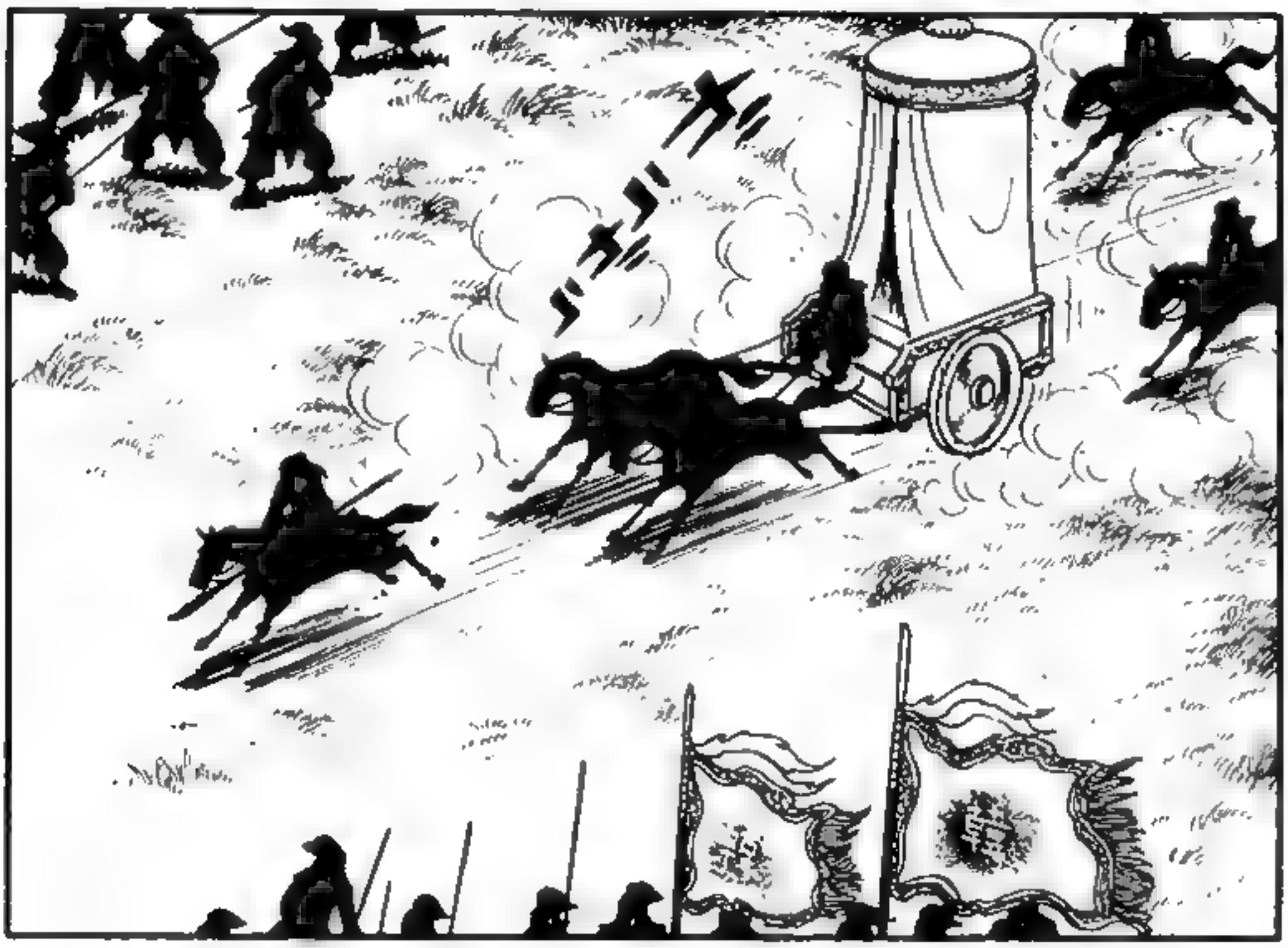
AHH!

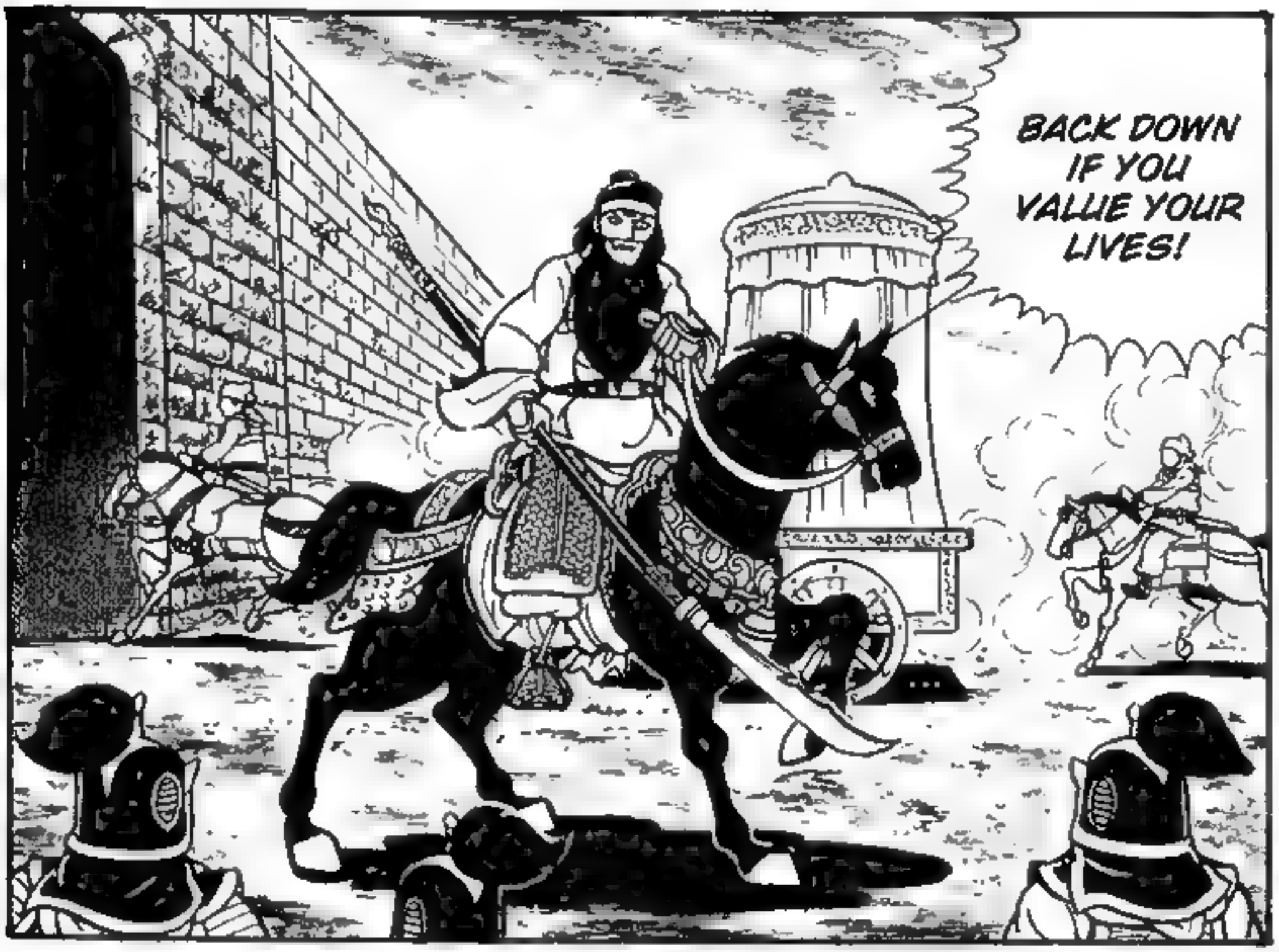

GOVE-
RNOR
HAN FU!

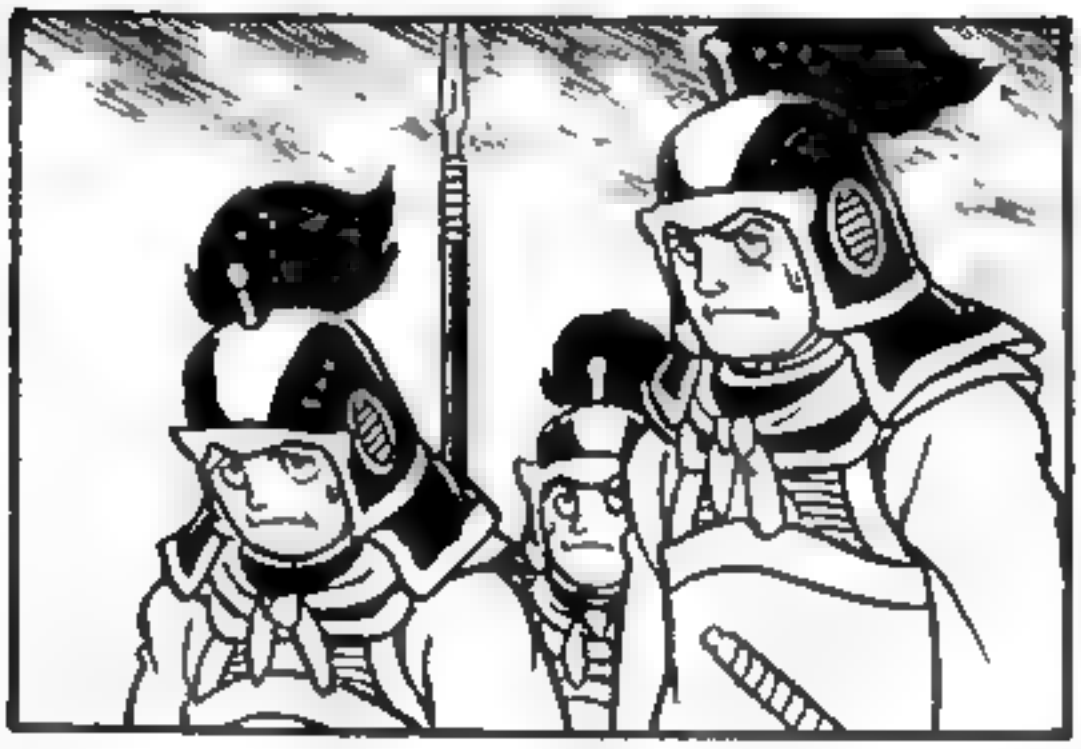




NOW!




BACK DOWN IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES!



YES, AND HE IS SURE TO ARRIVE HERE BEFORE LONG.

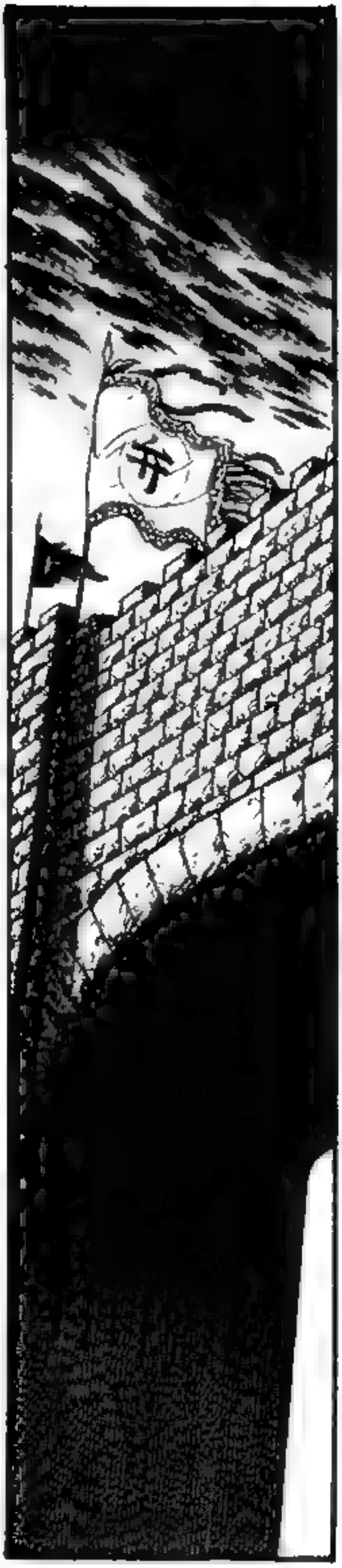
WHAT!? BOTH HAN FU AND KONG XIU HAVE BEEN KILLED BY GUAN YU?

HMM...

I'M AFRAID WE WON'T BE ABLE TO BEAT HIM IN A DIRECT CONFRONTATION.

A TRAP?

THEN LET US LURE HIM INTO A TRAP.

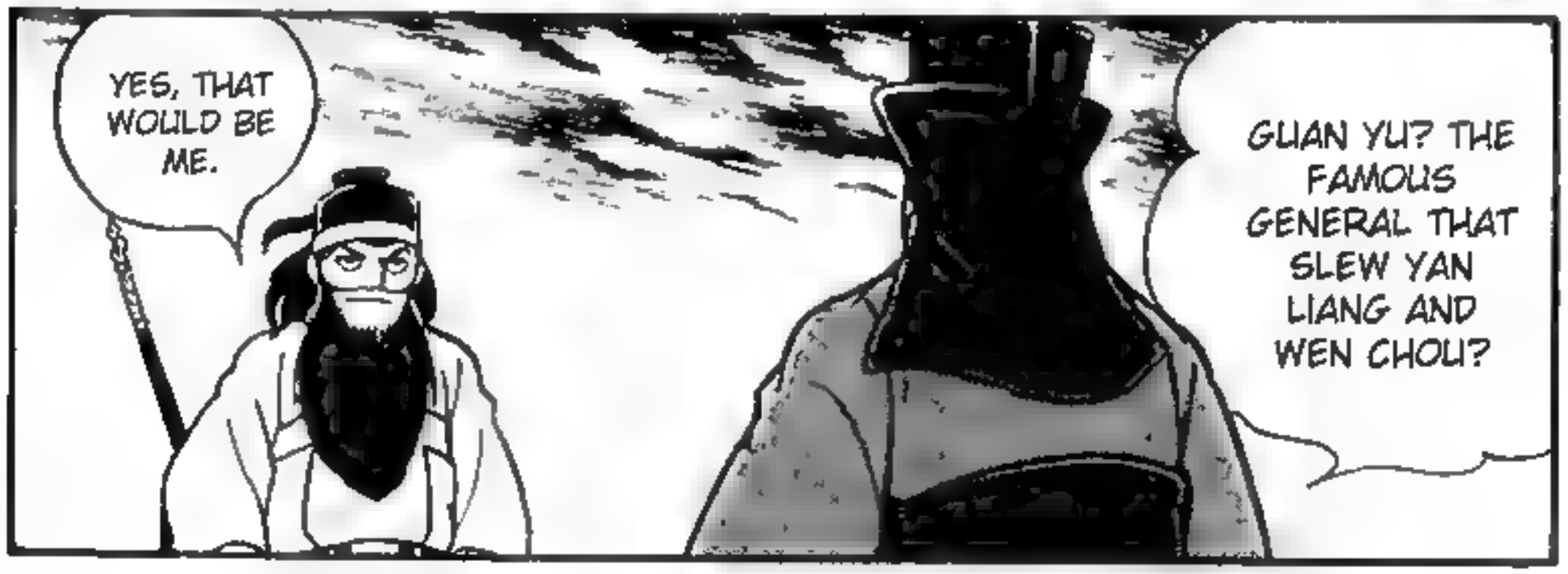


AN EXCEL-LENT PLAN, SIR.
THAT'S WHEN WE'LL AMBUSH HIM.
YES, WE SHALL GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME AND TREAT HIM TO WINE AT ZHENGUO TEMPLE.
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.
ALRIGHT, HAVE THE SOLDIERS HIDE IN THE TEMPLE AND READY TO ATTACK AT MY COMMAND.

SIR, WE'VE ARRIVED AT SISHUI PASS.

I SHALL GO CHECK OUT THE SITUATION FIRST.

THE NAME IS GUAN YU! I WISH TO TRAVEL TO HEBEI AND MEAN NO HARM. PLEASE OPEN THE GATES!


YES, THAT WOULD BE ME.
GUAN YU? THE FAMOUS GENERAL THAT SLEW YAN LIANG AND WEN CHOU?

PLEASE, COME THIS WAY.

MY NAME IS BIAN XI. I'VE HEARD A GREAT DEAL ABOUT SIR'S VALIANT DEEDS.

I'M SURE SIR'S COMPANY WOULD ENJOY A GOOD NIGHT'S REST AFTER THE LONG JOURNEY.

IT IS NOT EVERY DAY THAT I CAN WELCOME HEROES OUT IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY. I WOULD BE HONOURED IF SIR COULD STAY THE NIGHT AND HAVE DINNER WITH ME.

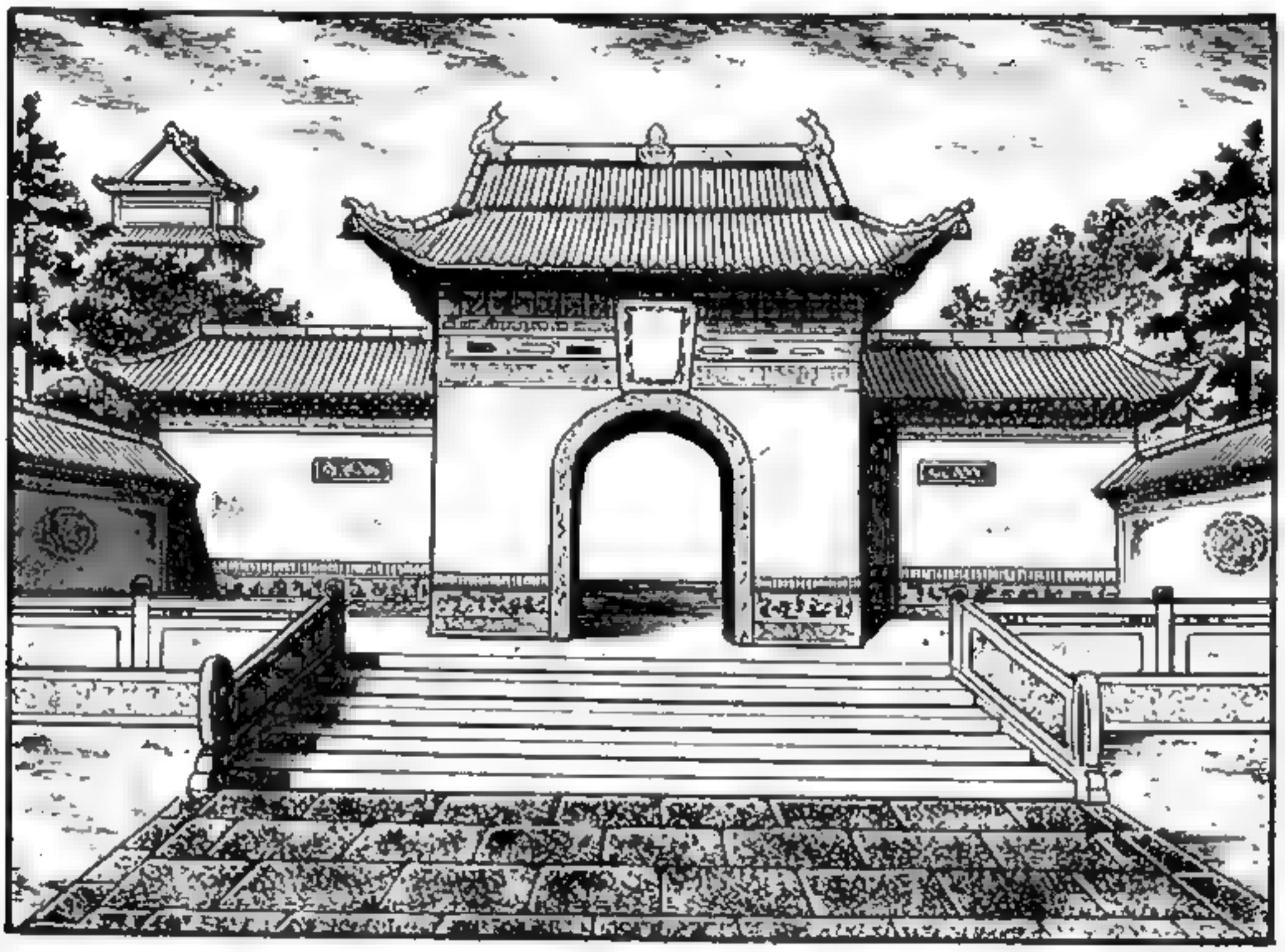
TRUE...

WHY THANK YOU.

THERE IS A FAMOUS TEMPLE NEAR HERE CALLED ZHENGUO TEMPLE. PLEASE, I URGE SIR TO SPEND THE NIGHT OVER THERE.

THAT IS ZHENGUO TEMPLE.

HAHA, I CANNOT BELIEVE MY LUCK! TO THINK THAT I WOULD BE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO MAKE SIR'S ACQUAINTANCE...

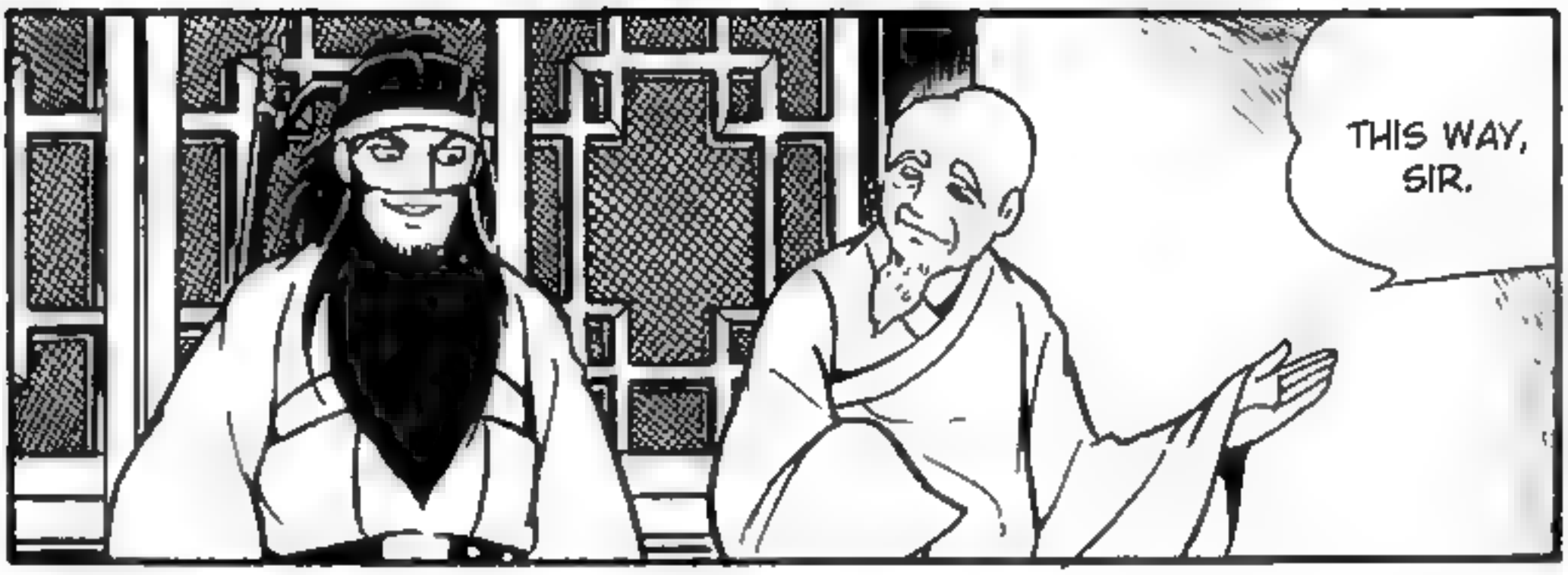


PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

MONK PU JING! ARE YOU THERE?

THIS IS GENERAL GUAN YU. HE IS A MOST IMPORTANT GUEST AND WILL BE SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE.

AH, WELCOME LORD BIAN XI.


THIS WAY, SIR.

20 YEARS. WHY DO YOU ASK?

BY THE WAY, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE SIR LEFT PUDONG VILLAGE?

AH, THEN SIR PROBABLY WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE ME.

PU JING, WHAT MIGHT YOU BE DISCUSSING WITH THE GENERAL?

YES.
MIGHT YOU COME FROM PUDONG AS WELL?

NO, IT WAS NOTHING, SIR.

NO WONDER THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL...

AH, OF COURSE ...

WHY WOULD HE WINK AT ME...?

HMM?

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT SIR WOULD BE LIKE IN PERSON. I NOW SEE RUMOURS OF YOUR GREATNESS HAVE NOT BEEN EXAGGERATED.

YOUR COLD EYES BELIE YOUR FRIENDLY SMILE.

PLEASE, HAVE A DRINK.

W-WHAT ARE YOU SUGG-ESTING, SIR!?

THIS CUP OF WINE WOULDN'T BE DRUGGED NOW, WOULD IT?

BIAN XI, DO YOU TAKE THIS GUAN YU FOR A FOOL?

AGHH!

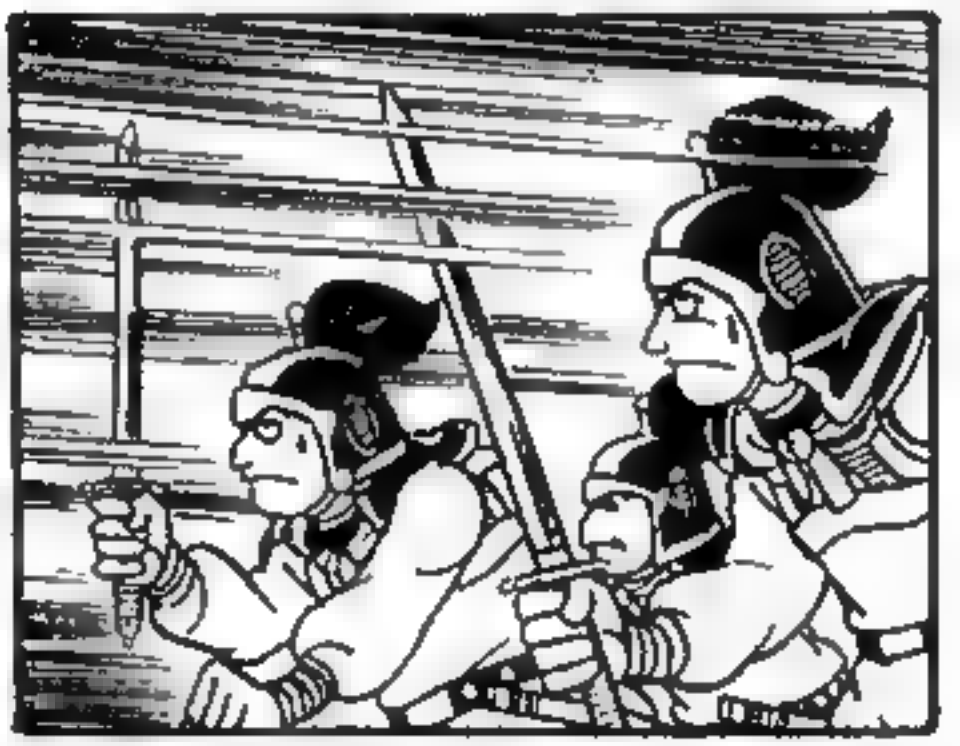
PERHAPS THIS BLADE OF MINE CAN FORCE THE TRUTH OUT FROM YOU.

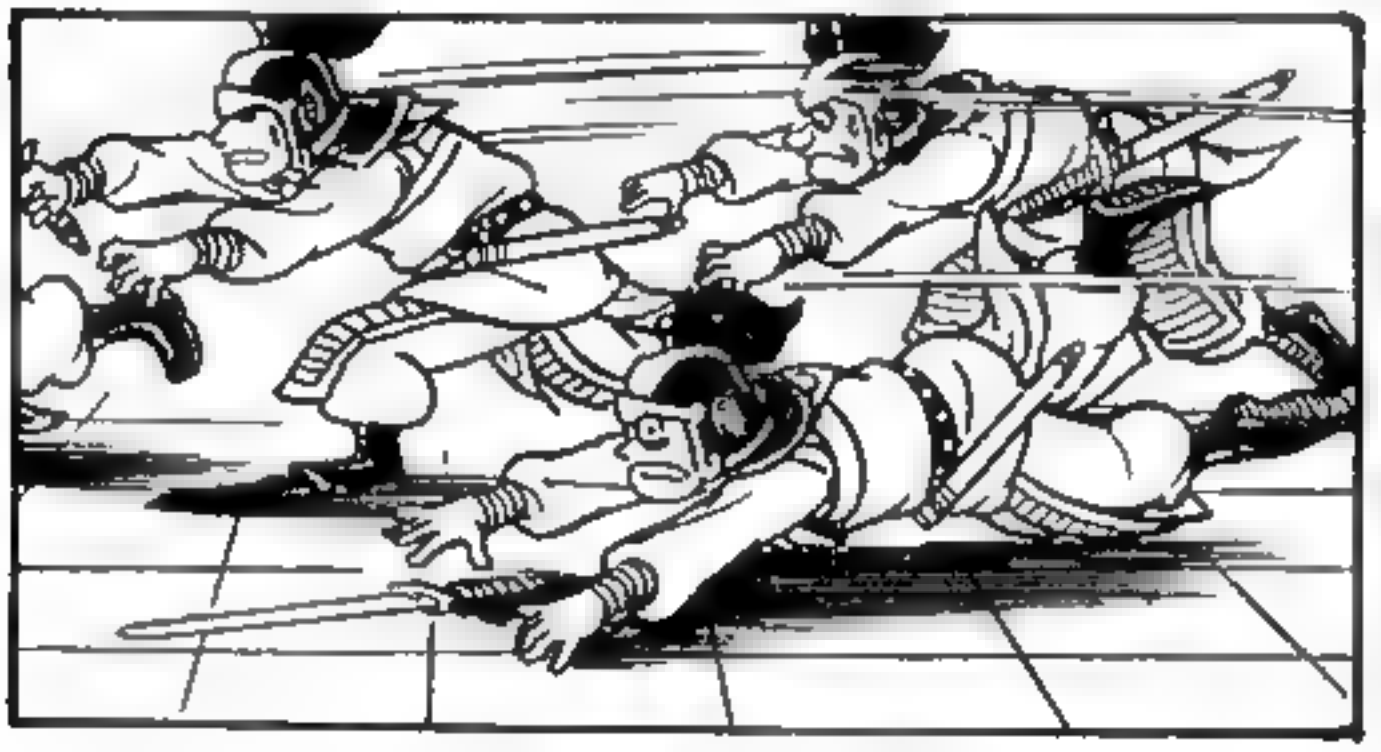
ATTACK HIM!

JUST AS I THOUGHT, YOU WERE PLANNING AN AMBUSH.

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! ATTACK!

I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO STAND DOWN IF YOU WISH TO KEEP YOUR BODY IN ONE PIECE.



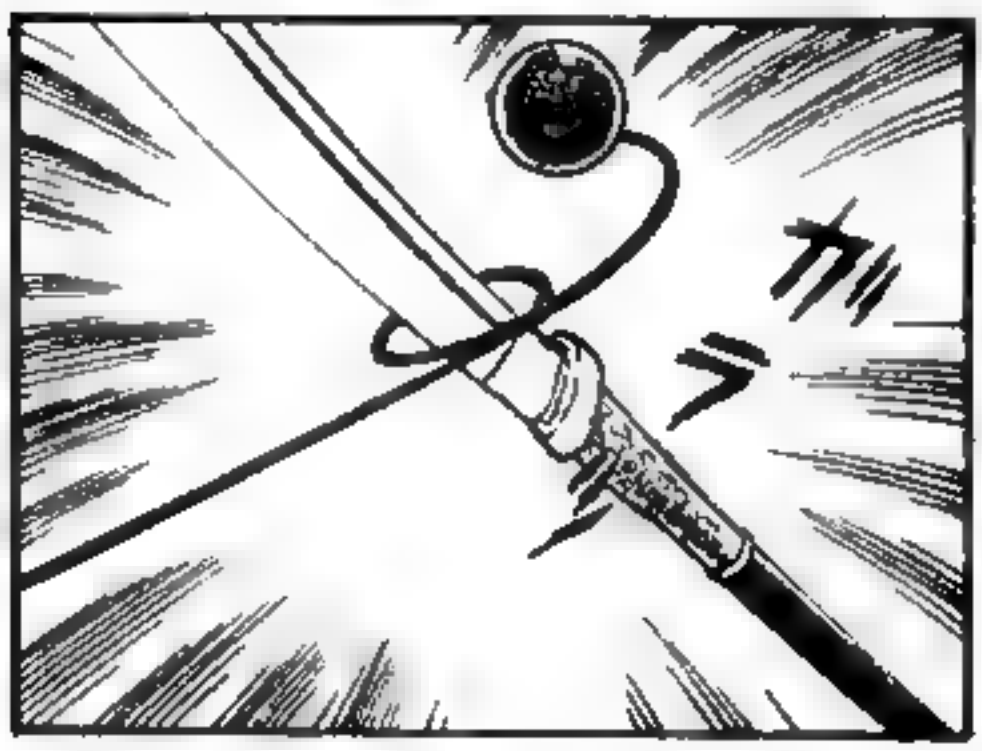


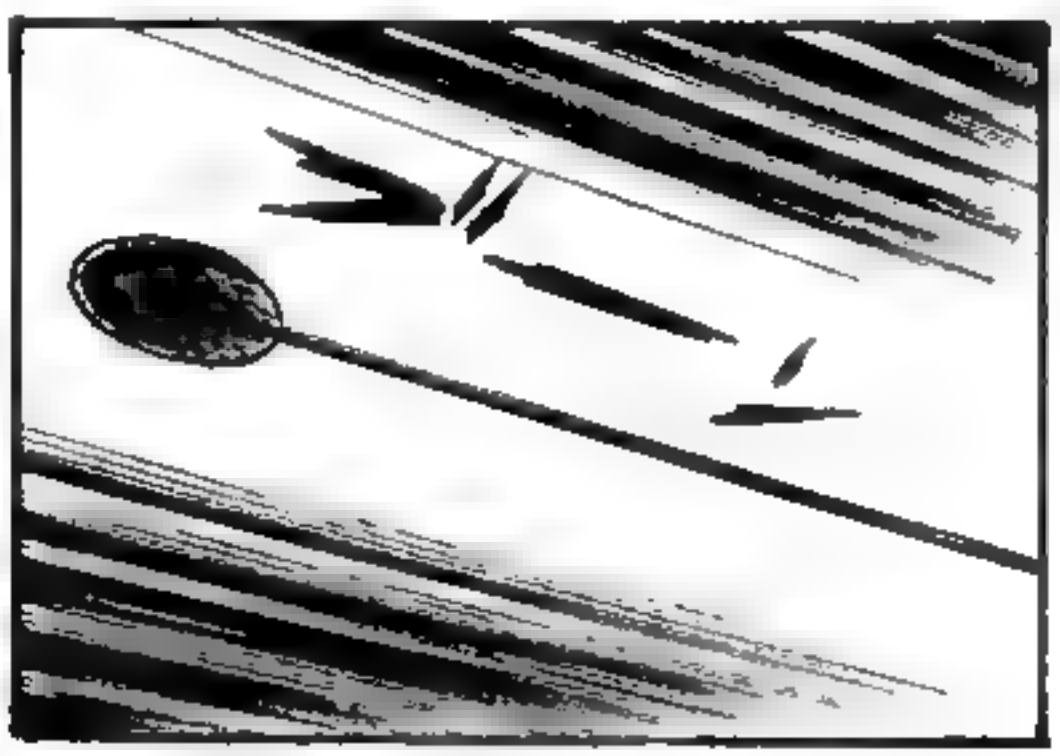
AGHH!

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, BIAN XI?

DAMN COWA-RDS!

I SHALL TAKE YOU DOWN MYSELF!





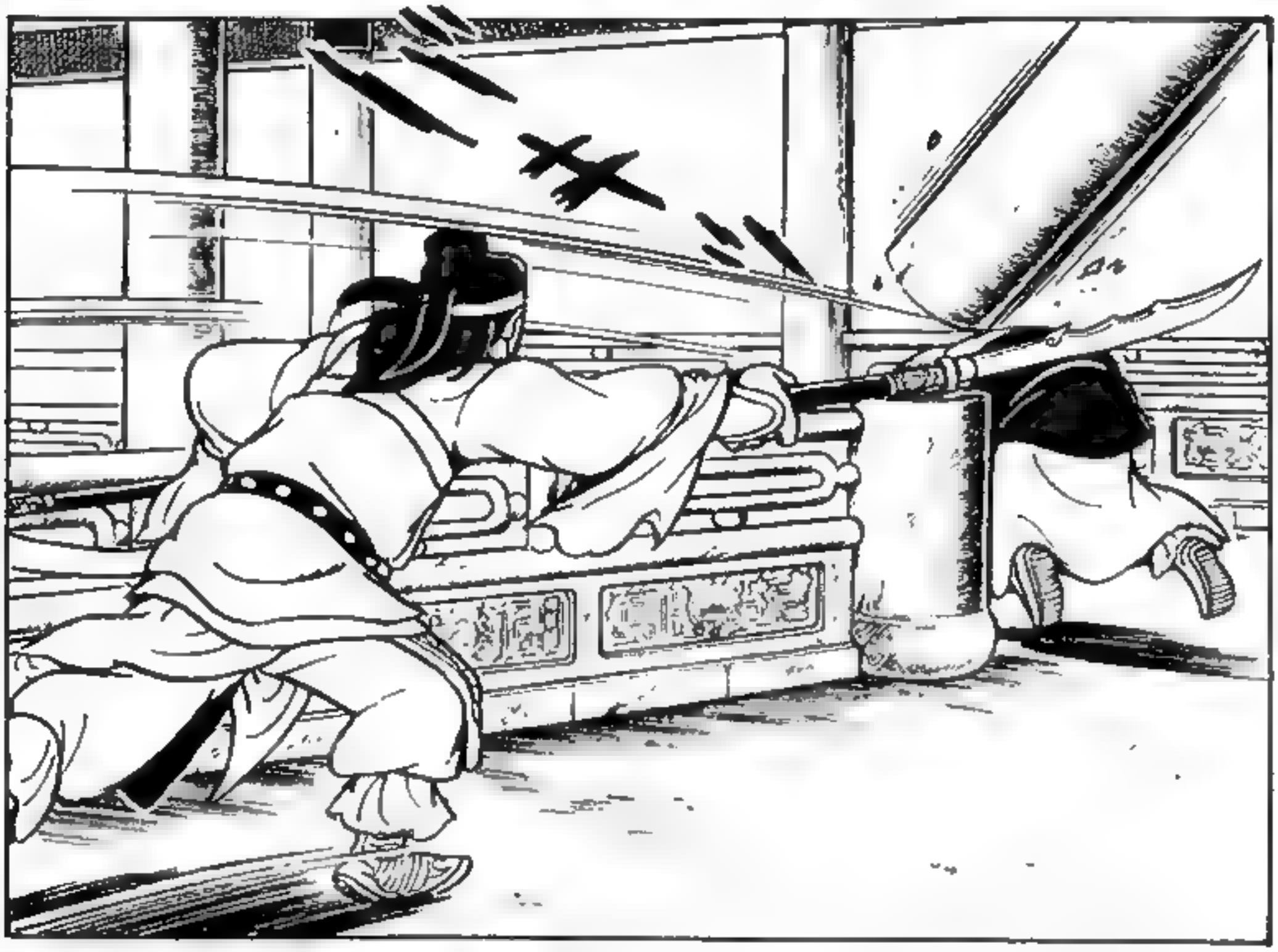
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME DOWN WITH THIS?

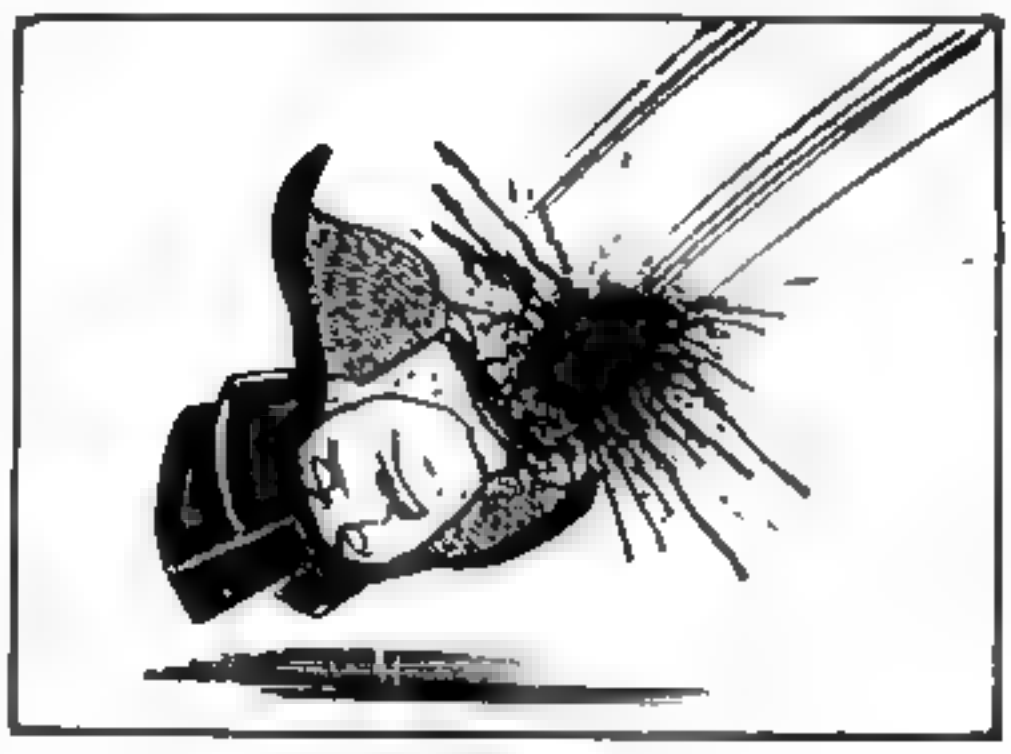
HAH!

STOP RIGHT THERE!

AGHHH!

WHEN YOU CHALLENGE A MAN TO FIGHT, YOU SHOULD ALREADY BE PREPARED TO DIE!





MONK PU JING.

NO NEED TO THANK ME, SIR. IT IS MY NATURAL DUTY TO HELP THE LOYAL SERVANTS OF HAN.

THANK YOU FOR WARNING ME.

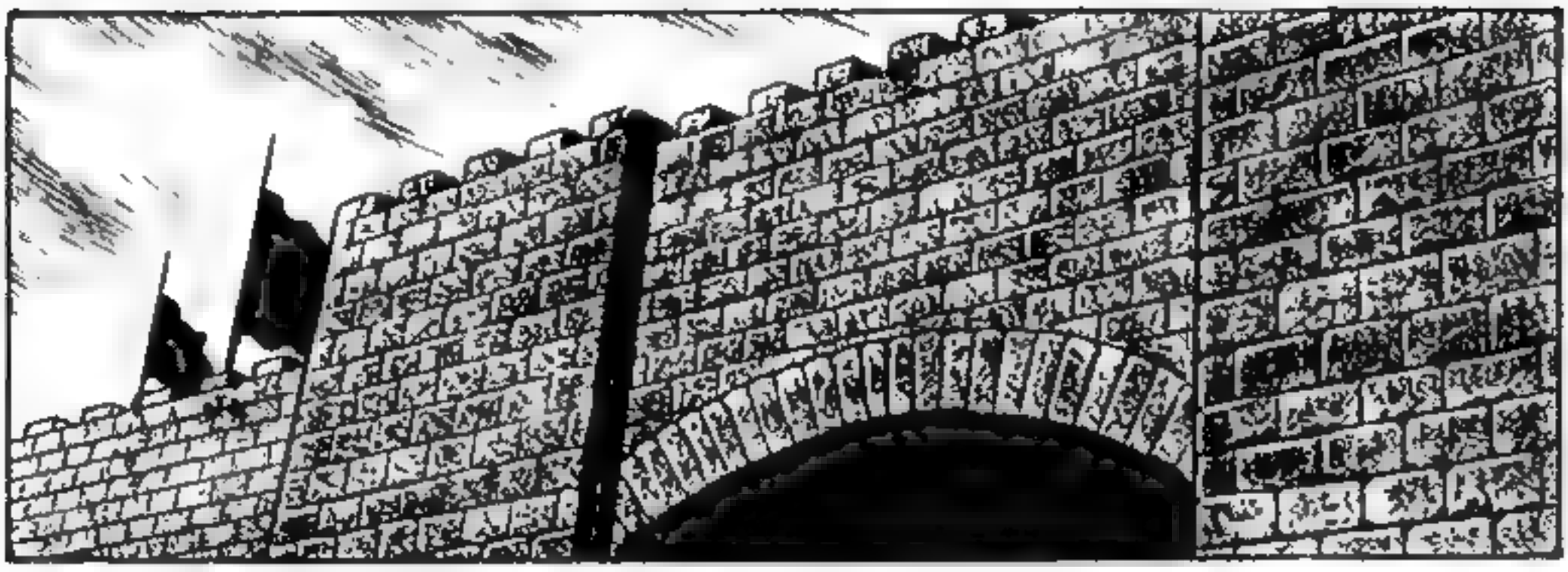
WHAT WILL YOU DO?

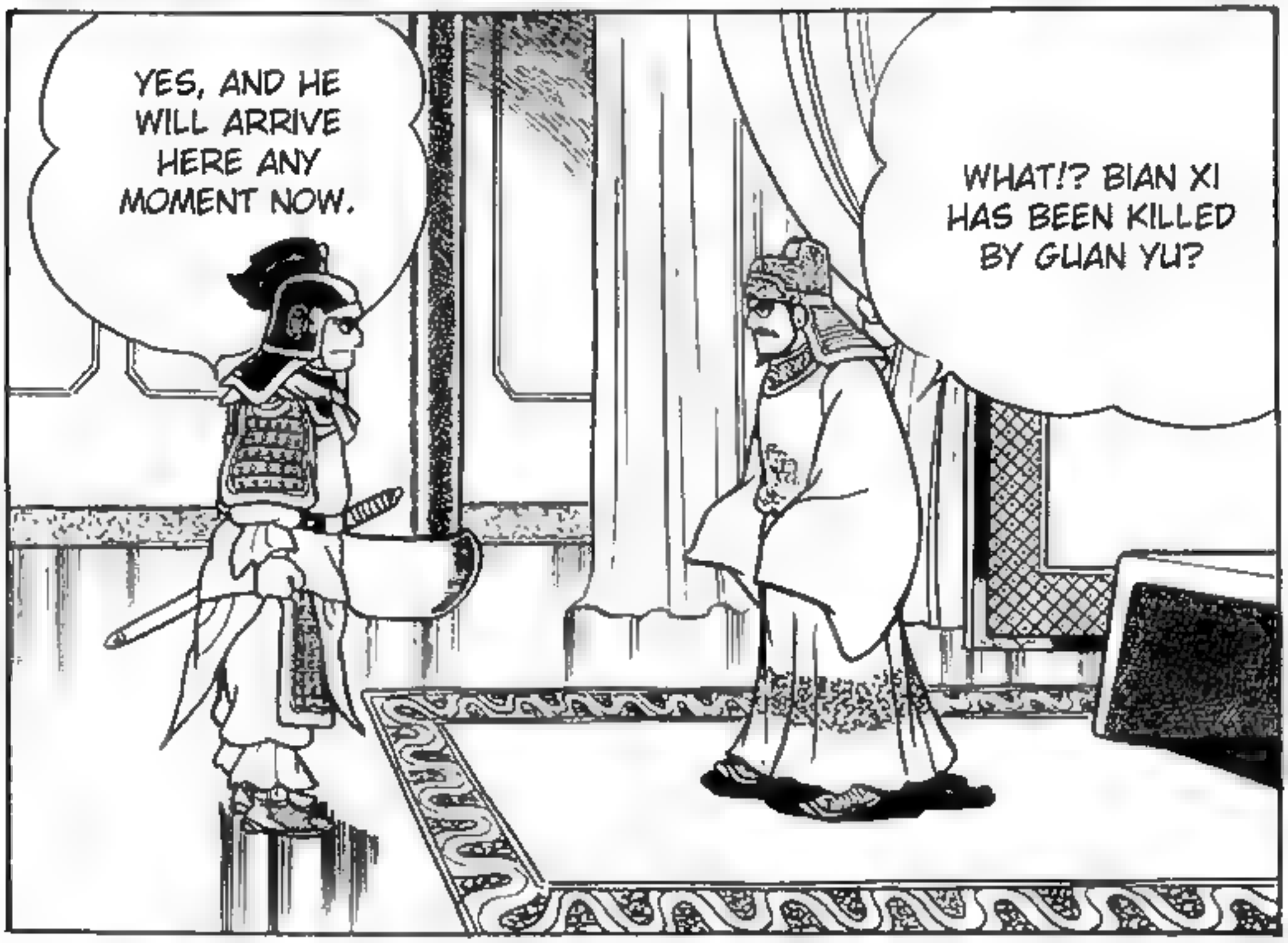
BUT ENOUGH TALKING FOR NOW. THE OTHER SOLDIERS MIGHT ARRIVE HERE ANY MOMENT NOW. YOU MUST HURRY UP AND LEAVE THIS PLACE.

I SHALL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS.
I FEEL THAT I HAVE UNNECCES-SARILY CAUSED YOU TROUBLE. FORGIVE ME.

WELL, WITH WHAT JUST HAPPENED, I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE HERE.

AND SO GUAN YU PASSED THE 3RD GATE SAFELY




YES, AND HE WILL ARRIVE HERE ANY MOMENT NOW.
WHAT!? BIAN XI HAS BEEN KILLED BY GUAN YU?

SHOULD WE JUST LET HIM THROUGH, SIR?

ALL THIS TROUBLE BECAUSE OF A SINGLE MAN! WE CANNOT ALLOW ANY MORE CAUSALTIES THAN THIS.

YES, SIR.

GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME WHEN HE COMES.

NO, I HAVE A PLAN...

HE'S COMING!

YES, SIR.

GO REPORT TO GOVERNOR WANG ZHI RIGHT AWAY.

?

WHY YES.

MAY YOU BE GENERAL GUAN YU?

WE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO GIVE SIR A WARM WELCOME.

OUR LORD AND GOVERNOR OF XINGYANG, WANG ZHI, INTENDS NO HARM TO SIR.

I APOLOGIZE BUT I'M AFRAID THE GOVERNOR MIGHT THINK WE MISTREATED SIR IF WE ONLY DO THAT.

THANK YOU, BUT THERE IS NO NEED FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT. JUST LETTING ME PASS THROUGH HERE WOULD BE FINE.

OF COURSE SIR.

I SEE... COULD YOU THEN GIVE US A PLACE TO SPEND THE NIGHT? THAT'S ALL WE REALLY NEED.

RIGHT THIS WAY.

I HOPE THIS HOUSE IS TO SIR'S LIKING.

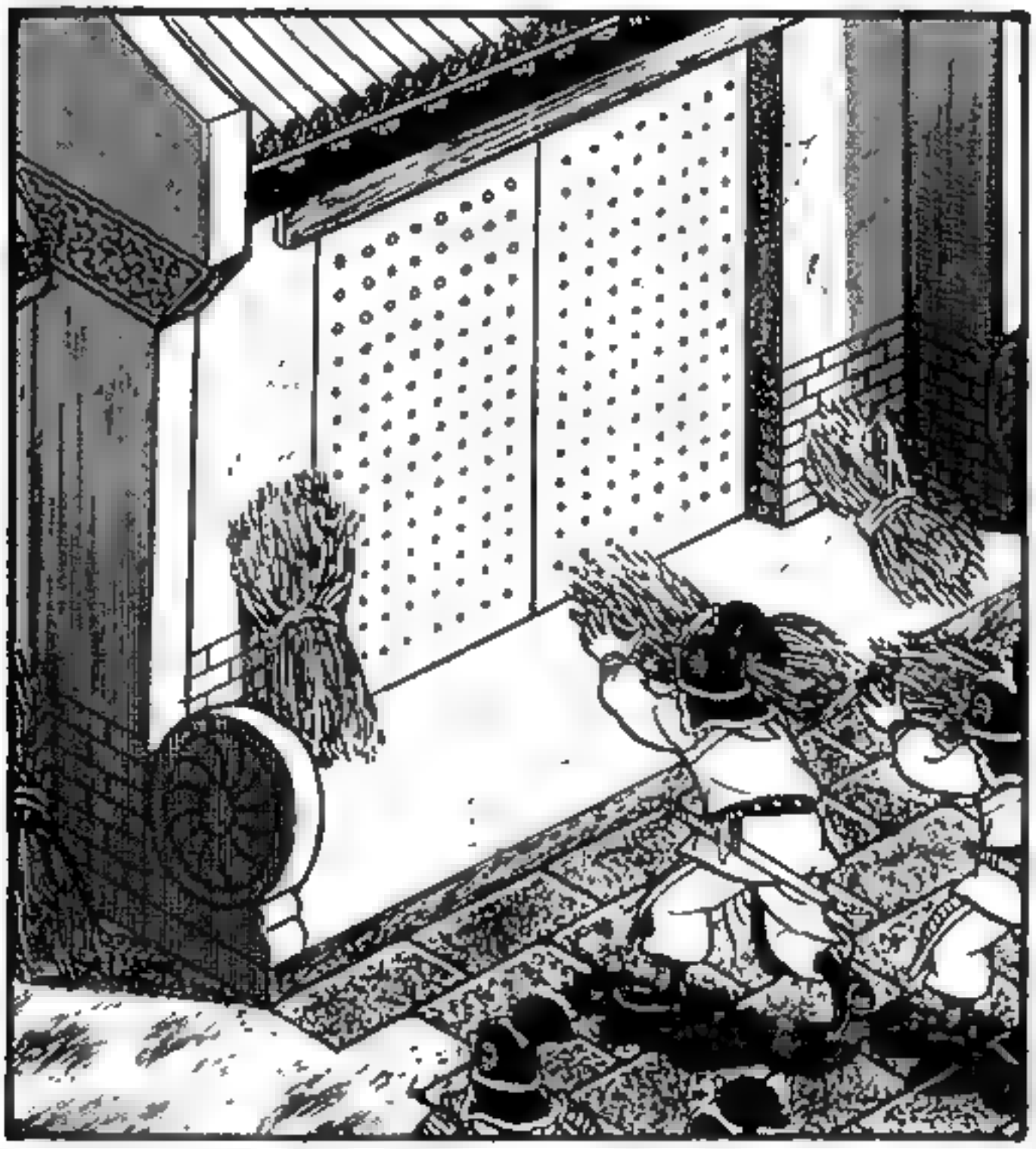
EXCELLENT JOB, CAPTAIN HU BAN.

WHEN IT'S DARK, I WANT YOU TO SECRETLY PLACE KINDLE WOOD OUTSIDE HIS LODGING.

WHAT SHALL WE DO NEXT, SIR?

YES, SIR.

AND ONCE HE'S FAST ASLEEP, WE SHALL BURN DOWN THE WHOLE HOUSE TO KILL HIM.

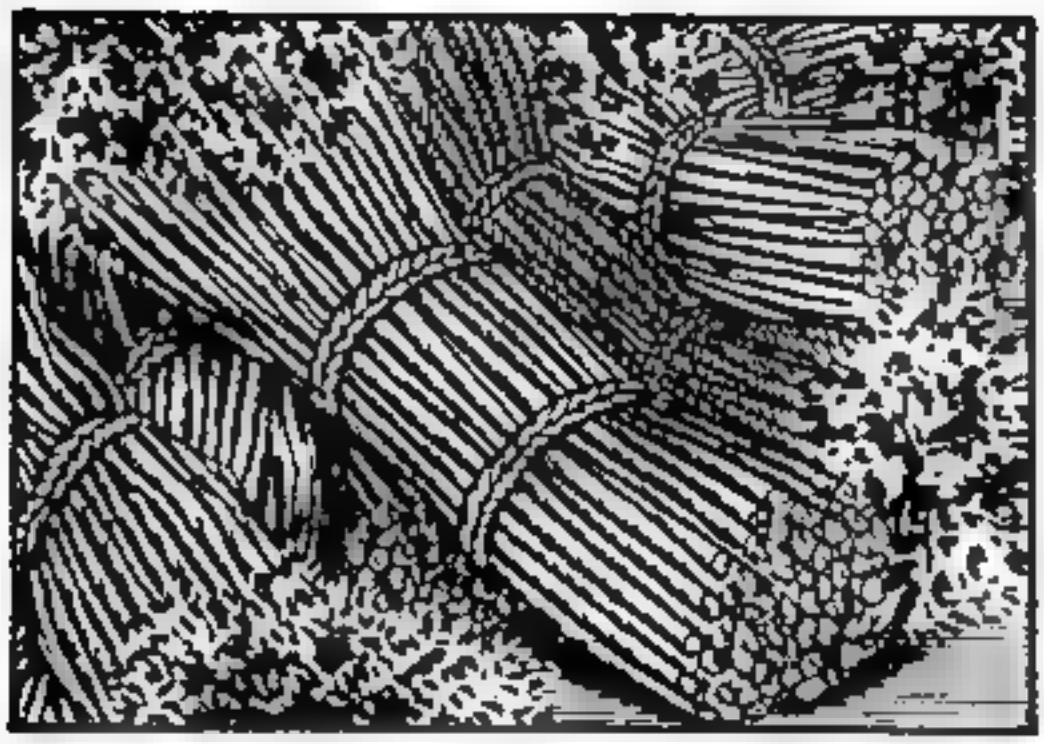


YES, GOOD WORK. I HOPE THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS.
CAPTAIN, WE HAVE FINISHED PLACING FIREWOOD AND OTHER COMBUSTIBLES AROUND THE HOUSE.

AND NOW TO WAIT UNTIL THEY FALL ASLEEP...

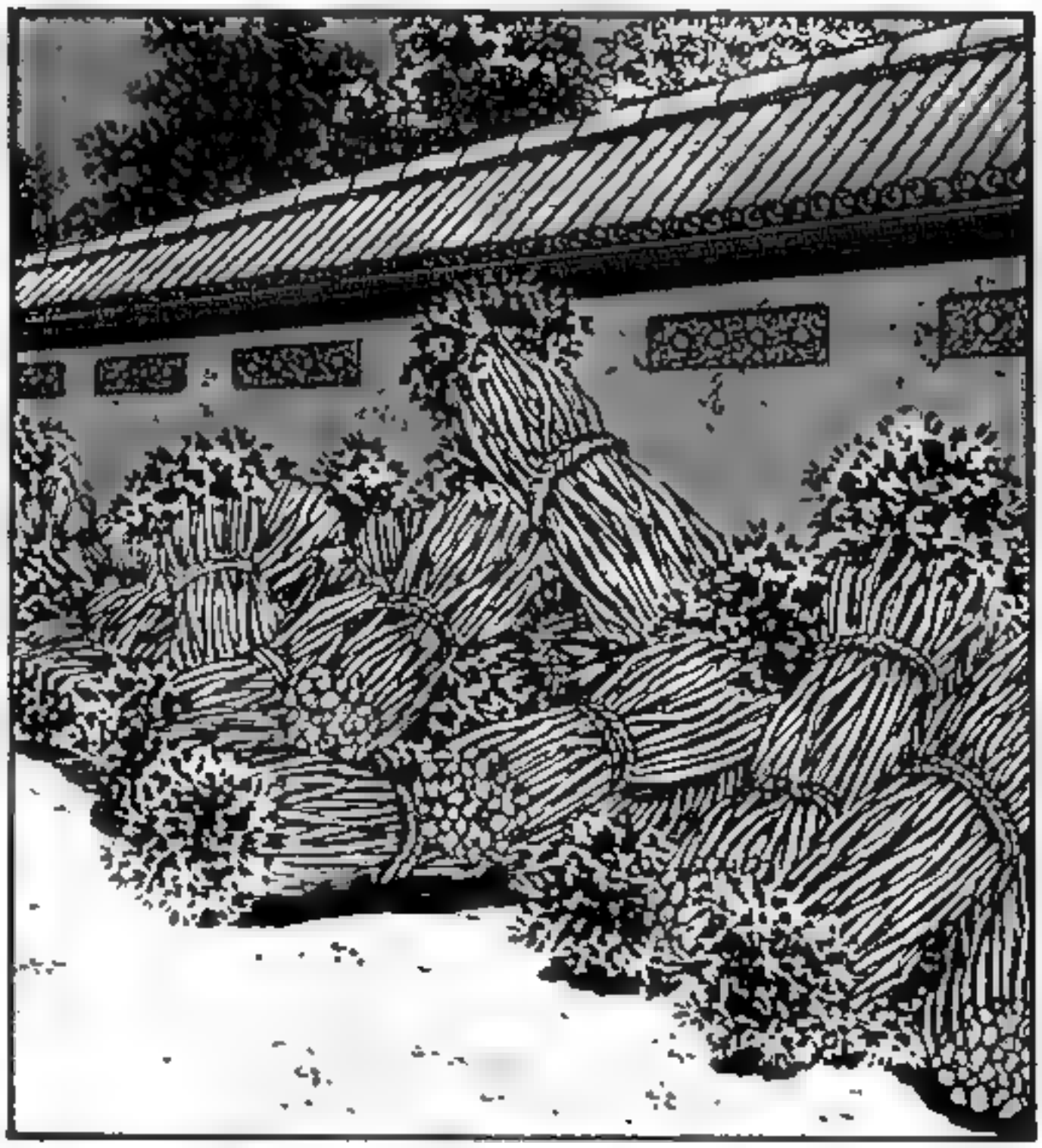
YES, SIR.
HAVE THE ARCHERS READY TO FIRE AT ANYONE WHO RUNS OUT.

AH, GOOD EVENING, GOVERNOR.
CAPTAIN HU BAN, HOW IS EVERYTHING GOING?



AS YOU CAN SEE, THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

WE ARE NOW ONLY WAITING FOR THEM TO FALL ASLEEP BEFORE LIGHTING THE FIRE, SIR.



GOOD.

YES, SIR.
I SHALL BE GUARDING THE GATES IN THE MEANWHILE THEN.

JUDGING BY THE LIGHT IN THE ROOM, IT APPEARS NOT YET, CAPTAIN.

IS GUAN YU STILL NOT ASLEEP?

HMM, JUST WHEN IS HE PLANNING TO SLEEP...?

I'LL GO CHECK OUT THE SITUATION.

WHO'S THERE?

HMM, THE LIGHT IS REALLY STILL ON...

AH, GOOD EVENING, SIR.

I SEE, GOOD WORK.

I AM CAPTAIN HU BAN, TASKED WITH GUARDING THIS HOUSE.

YES.

WELL EXCUSE ME, THEN.

WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS AGAIN?

GULP!

WAIT.

?

AH, SO YOU'RE HU BAN. I ALMOST MISSED YOU.

IT WAS HU BAN, SIR.

YES, HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD A SON WORKING HERE AND THAT I SHOULD GIVE HIM THIS LETTER IF I HAPPEN TO RUN ACROSS HIM.

MY FATHER!?

I HAPPENED TO STOP BY AT YOUR FATHER'S HOME.

HERE.

T-THIS IS MY FATHER'S HAND-WRITING FOR SURE!

FORGIVE ME, SIR. IF NOT FOR THIS LETTER, I WOULD HAVE COMMITTED A GRAVE SIN TO A LOYAL SERVANT OF HAN.

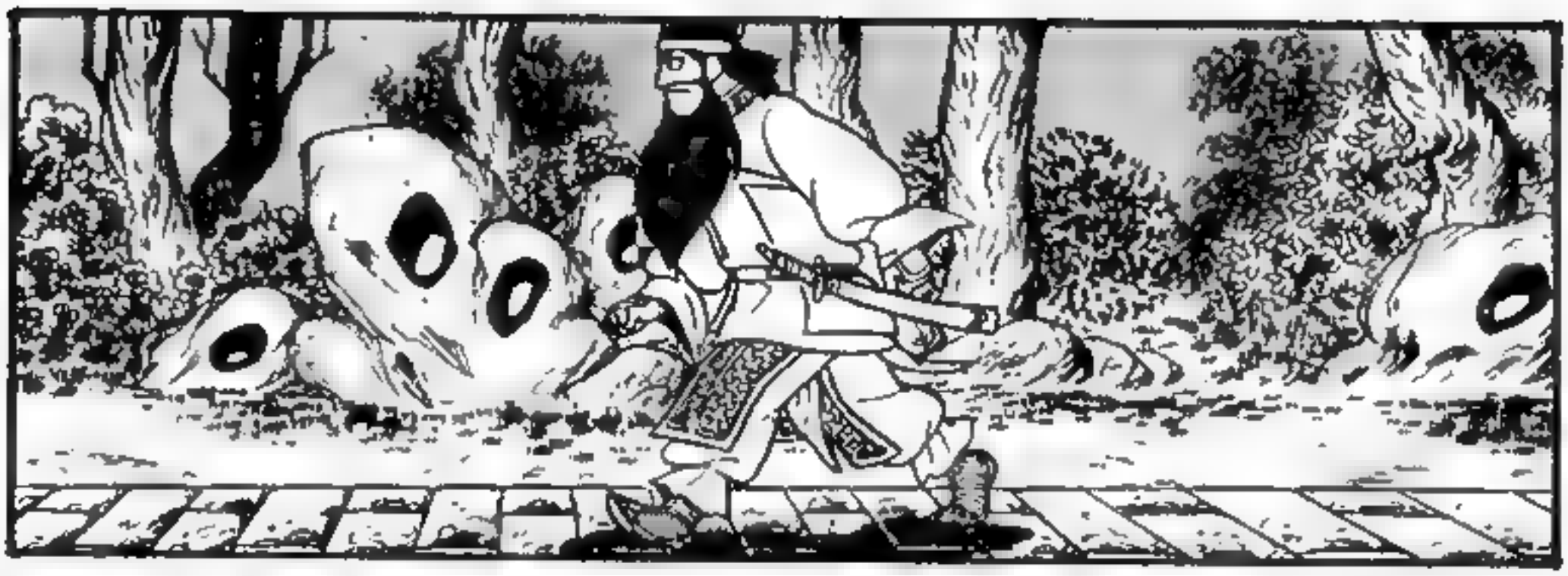
WHAT IS IT?

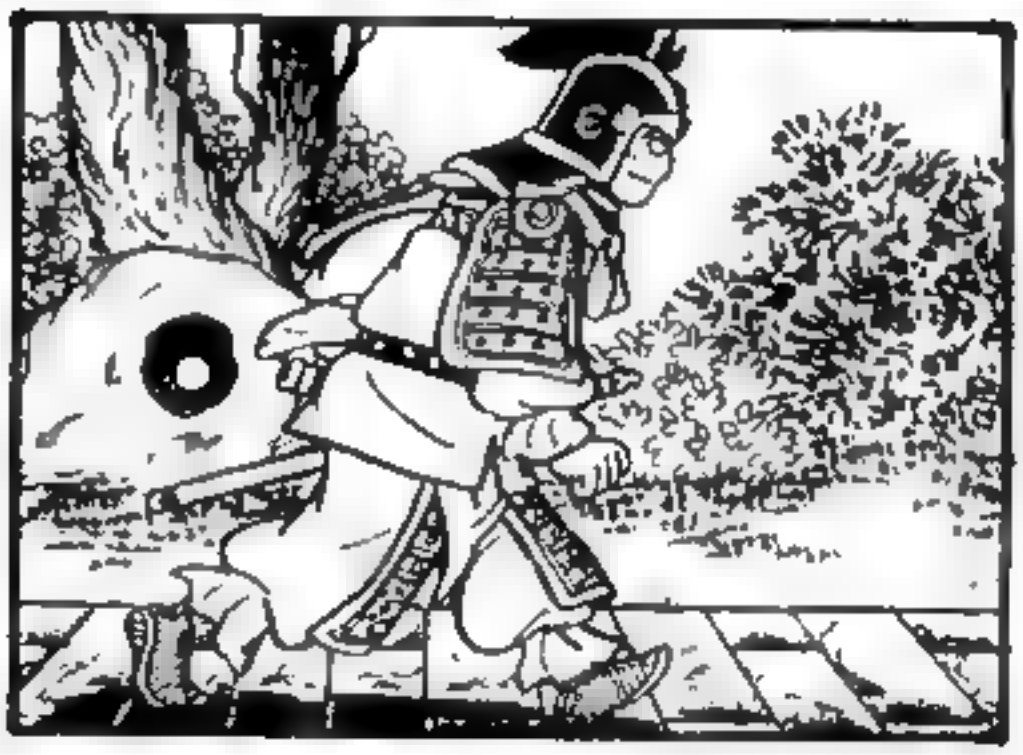
WHAT!?

YOU MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE. GOVERNOR WANG ZHI PLANS TO BURN DOWN THIS WHOLE HOUSE WITH SIR IN IT TONIGHT.

THANK YOU FOR WARNING ME.

I SHALL MOVE MY TROOPS NEAR THE FRONT ENTRANCE SO PLEASE ESCAPE THROUGH THE BACK EXIT.

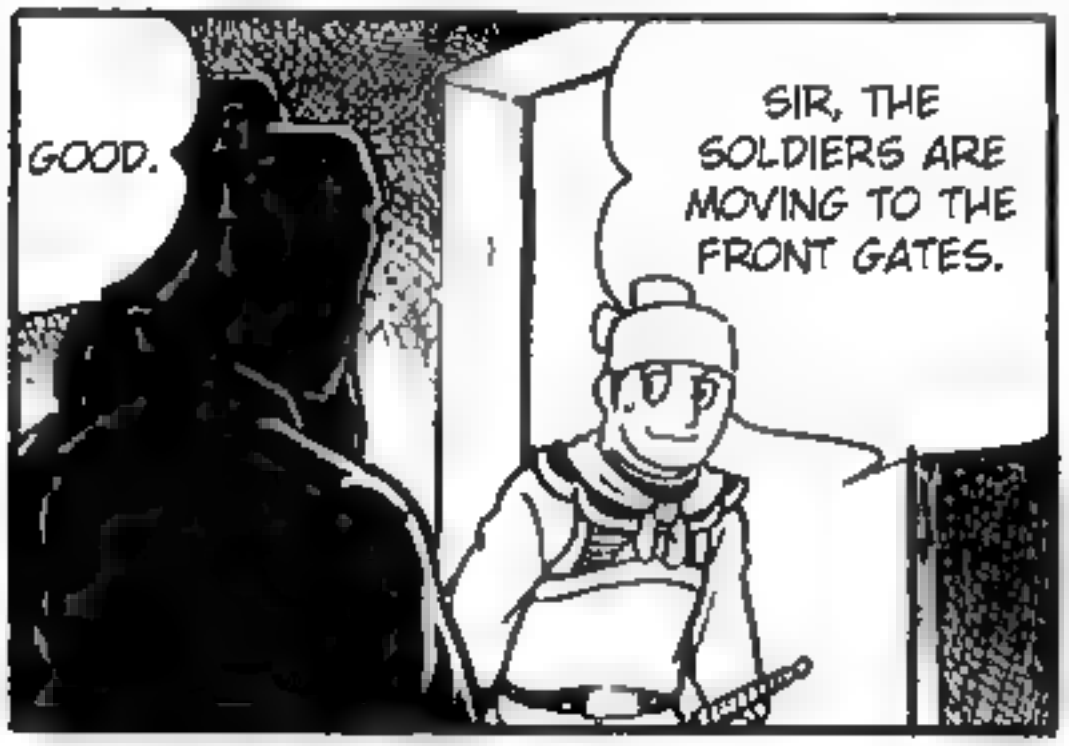


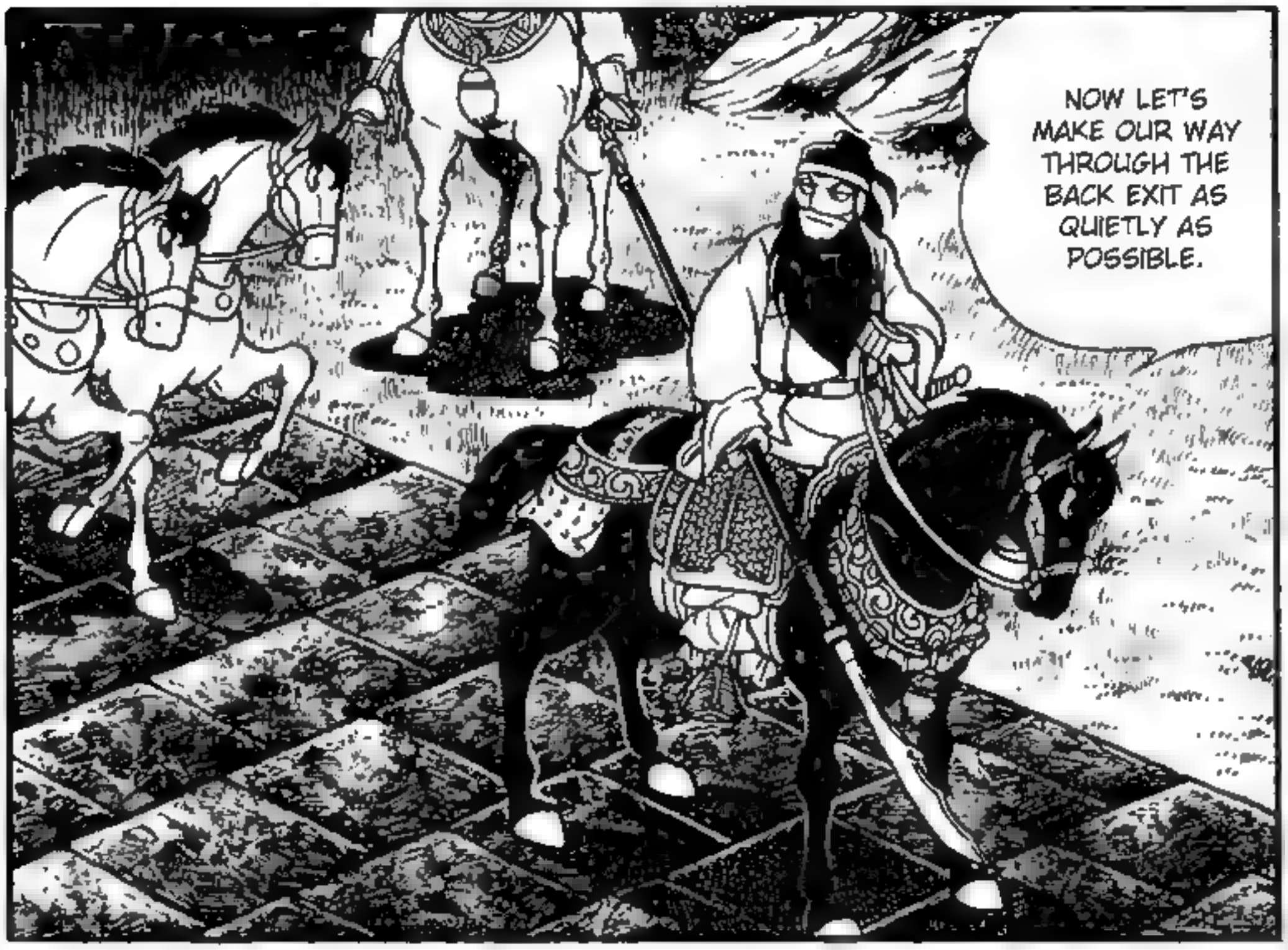


IT SEEMS A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS FOR US TO BE ALL HUDDLED HERE. LET'S ALL MOVE TO THE FRONT GATES.
YES, SIR.

YES, IT'S AS YOU SAID.

IS HE STILL AWAKE, CAPTAIN?


GOOD.
SIR, THE SOLDIERS ARE MOVING TO THE FRONT GATES.


NOW LET'S MAKE OUR WAY THROUGH THE BACK EXIT AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE.

ALL ALONE?

LEAVE THAT TO ME.

BUT SIR, THERE ARE SURE TO STILL BE SOLDIERS AT THE CASTLE GATES. WHAT SHALL WE DO?

FEAR NOT, I SHAN'T DIE UNTIL I AT LEAST SEE MY LORD AGAIN.

BE CARE-FUL, SIR.

DON'T WORRY, THE LAST PERSON THEY'D EXPECT TO COME IS ME. I'M SURE I CAN CATCH THEM BY SURPRISE.

IS THE GOVERNOR HERE?

HALT! WHO GOES THERE!?

I AM HERE TO OPEN THE GATES BY FORCE, IF NECCESSARY.

YES, WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH ME?

G-GUAN YU!?

STUBBORN TO THE END, ARE YOU!?

K-KILL HIM!

AHH!

G-GOV-ERNOR!

STAND DOWN IF YOU WISH TO BE SPARED!

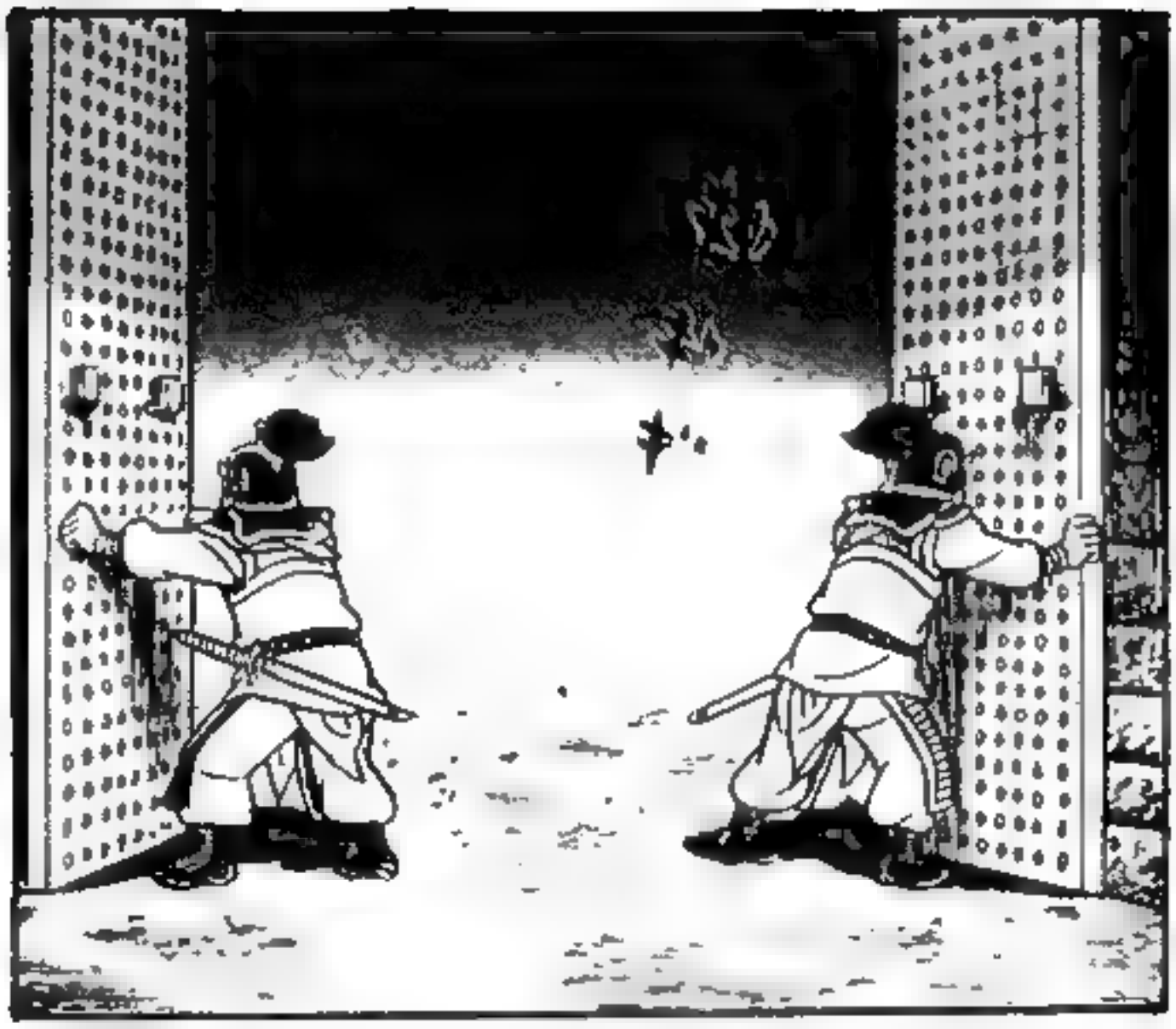
AGH!

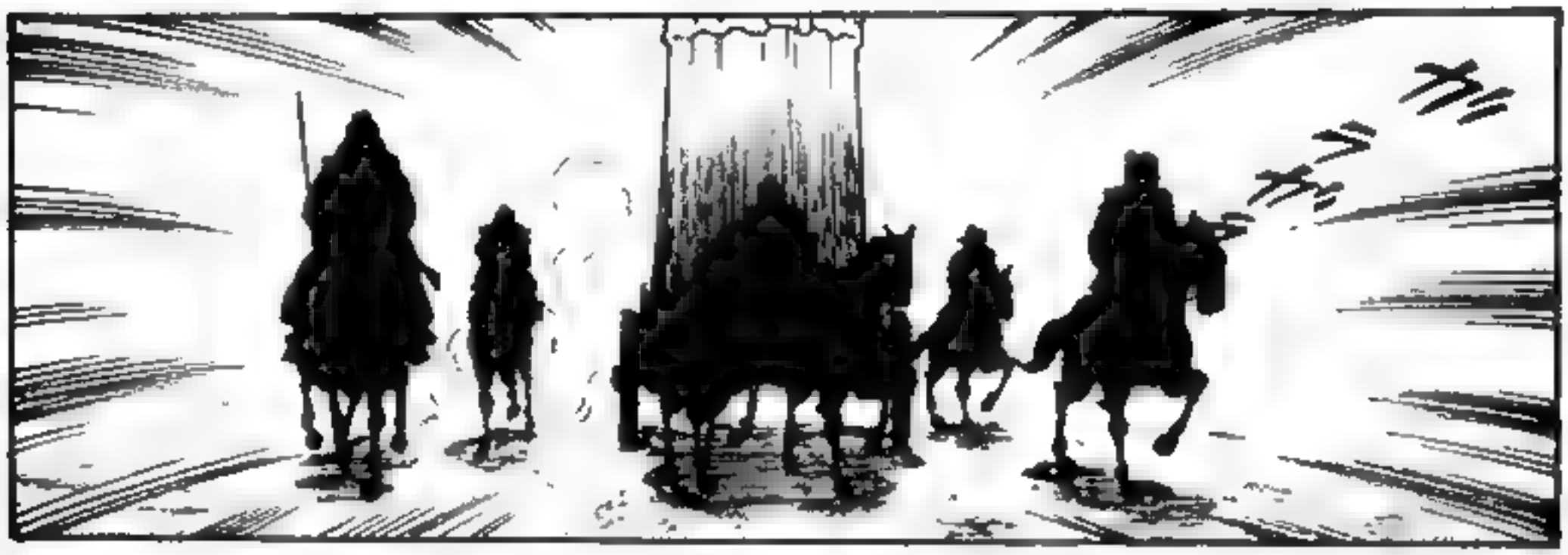
I WOULD RATHER NOT CAUSE ANOTHER BLOODSHED IF POSSIBLE.

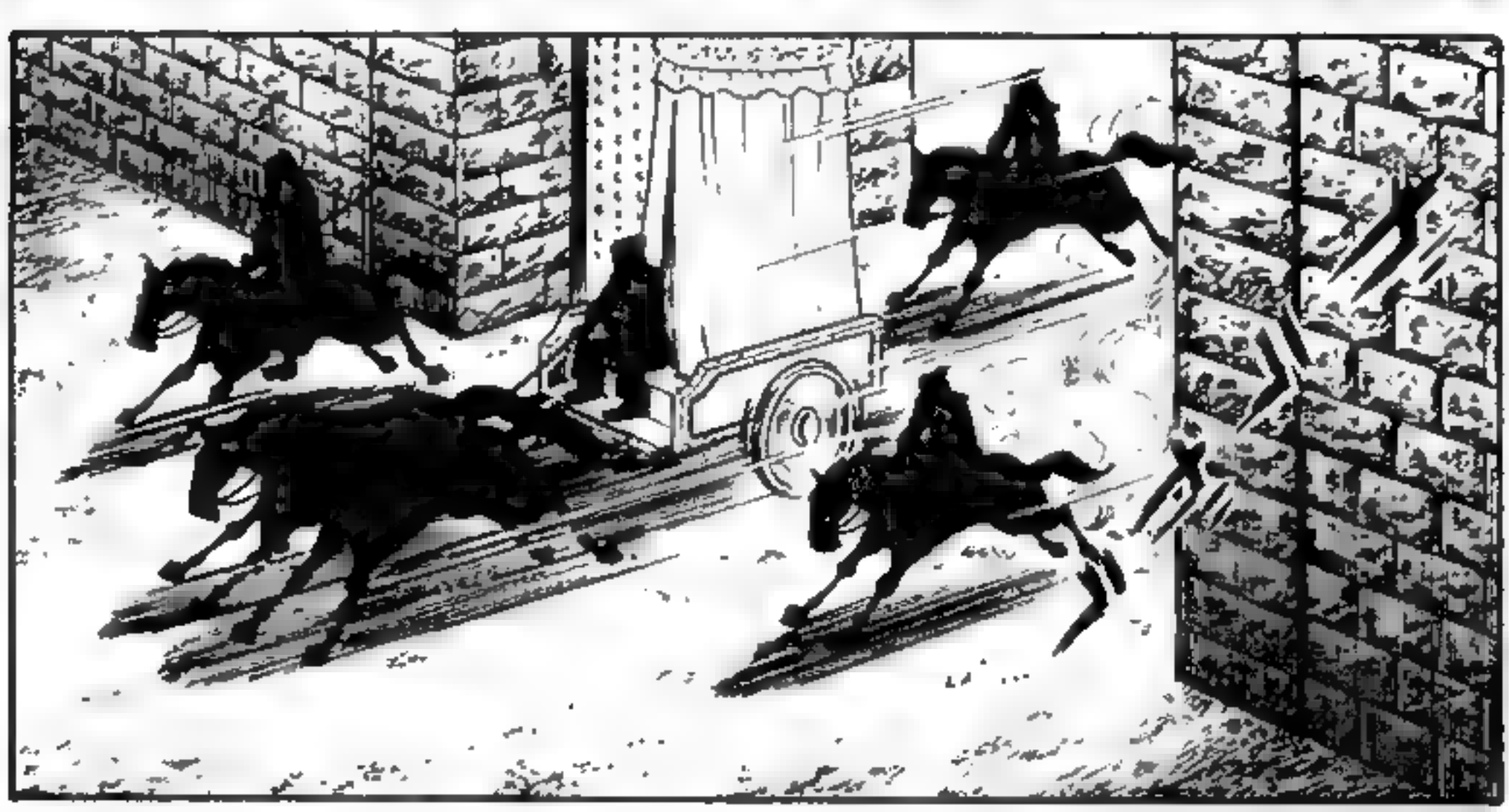
OPEN THE GATES!

ACK!

COME.







CAPTAIN HU BAN!

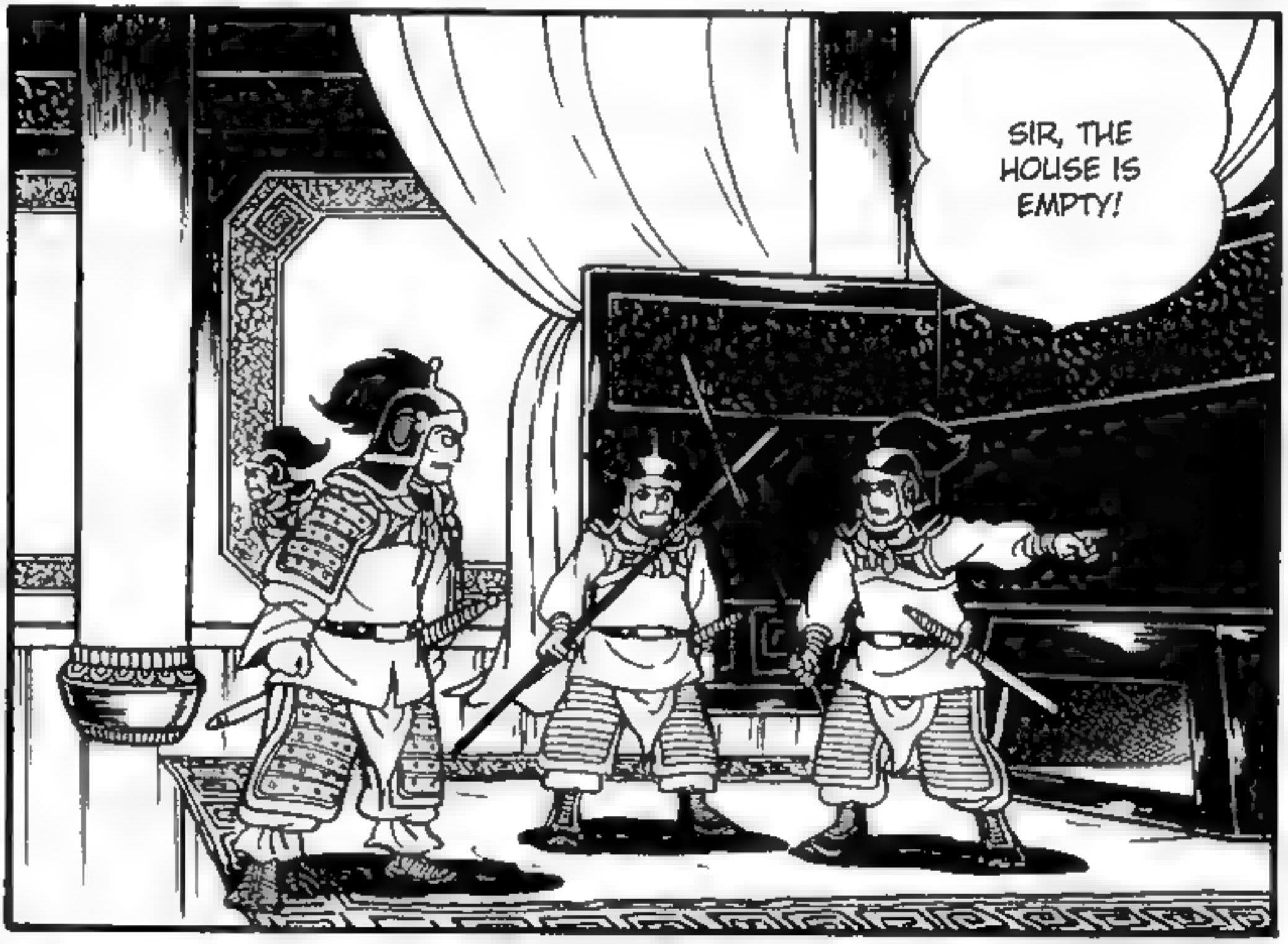
WHAT!?

GUAN YU HAS JUST BROKEN PAST THROUGH THE GATES!

GO IN AND CHECK!

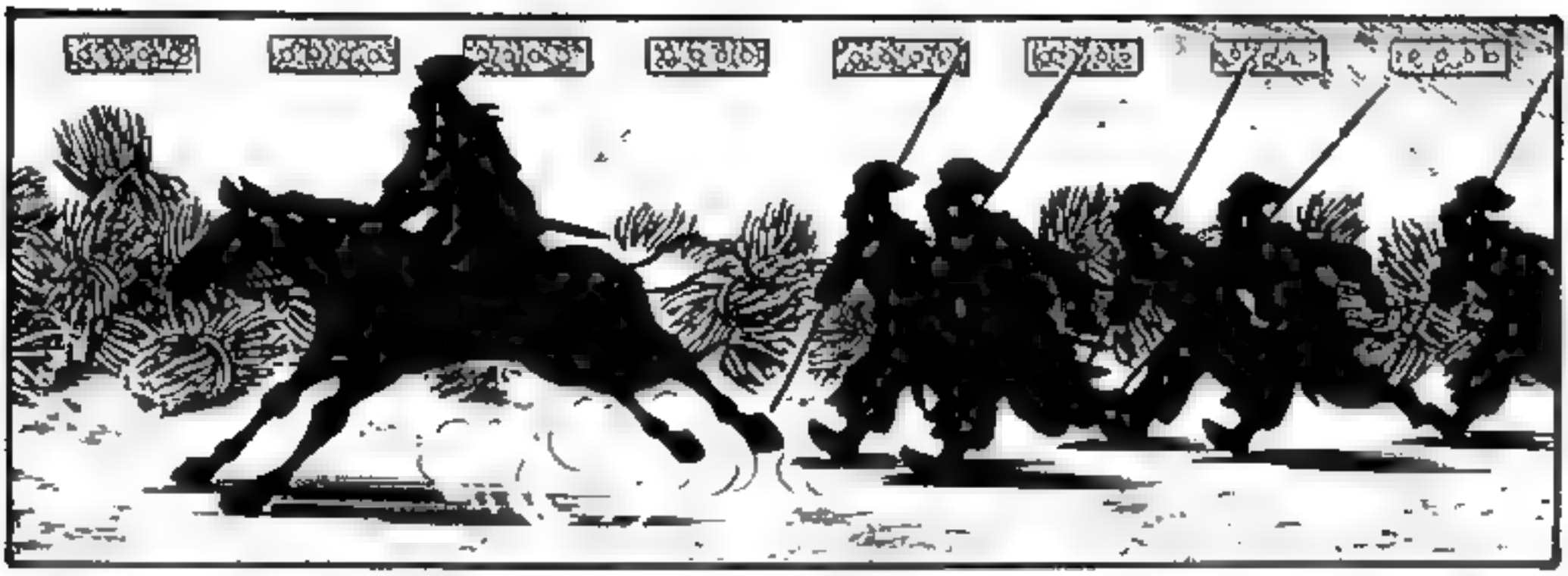
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE SHOULD STILL BE INSIDE THE HOUSE.

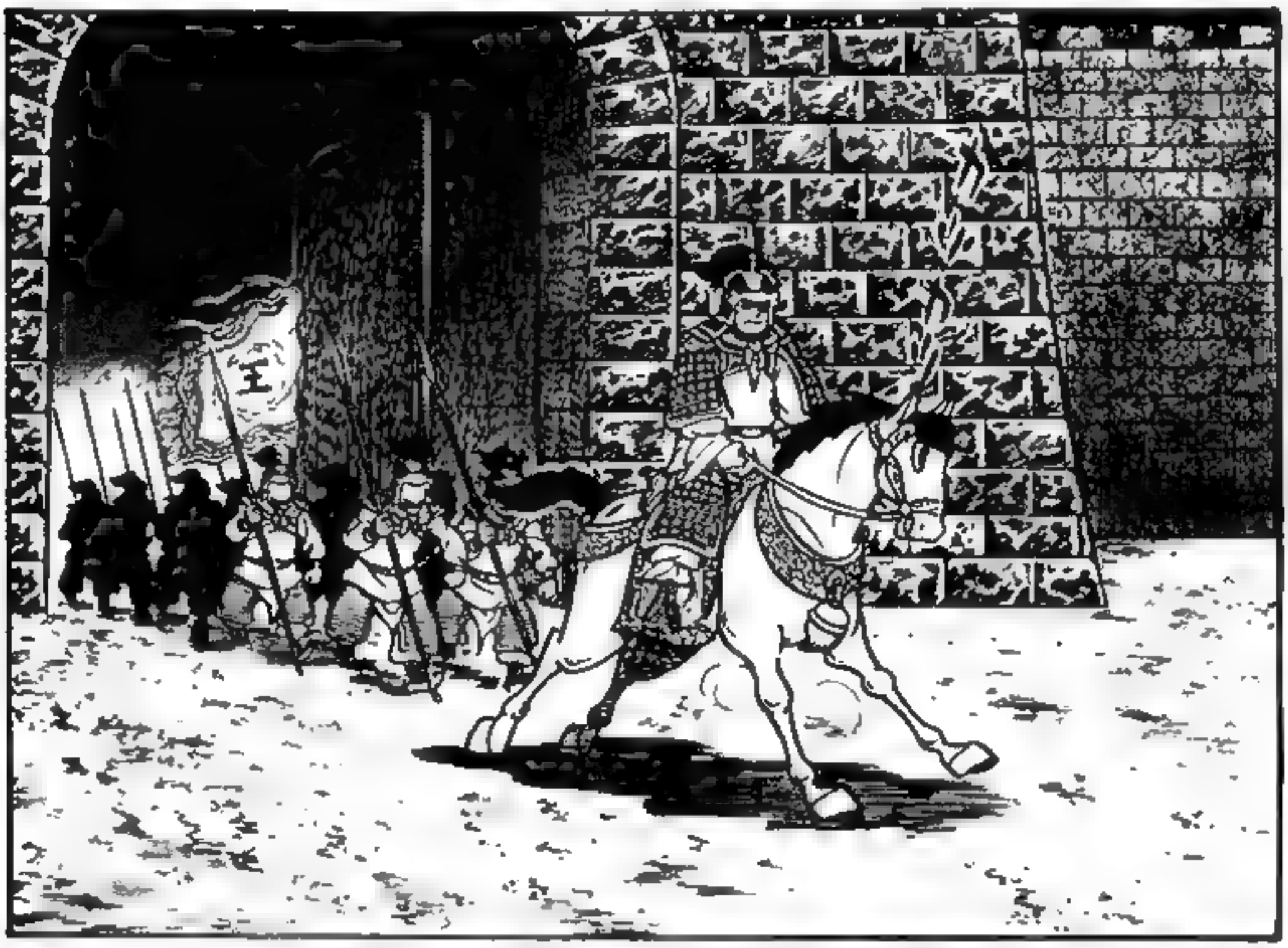
HM?


SIR, THE HOUSE IS EMPTY!

WE'LL HAVE TO CHASE AFTER HIM!

SO HE FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR PLAN, DID HE?

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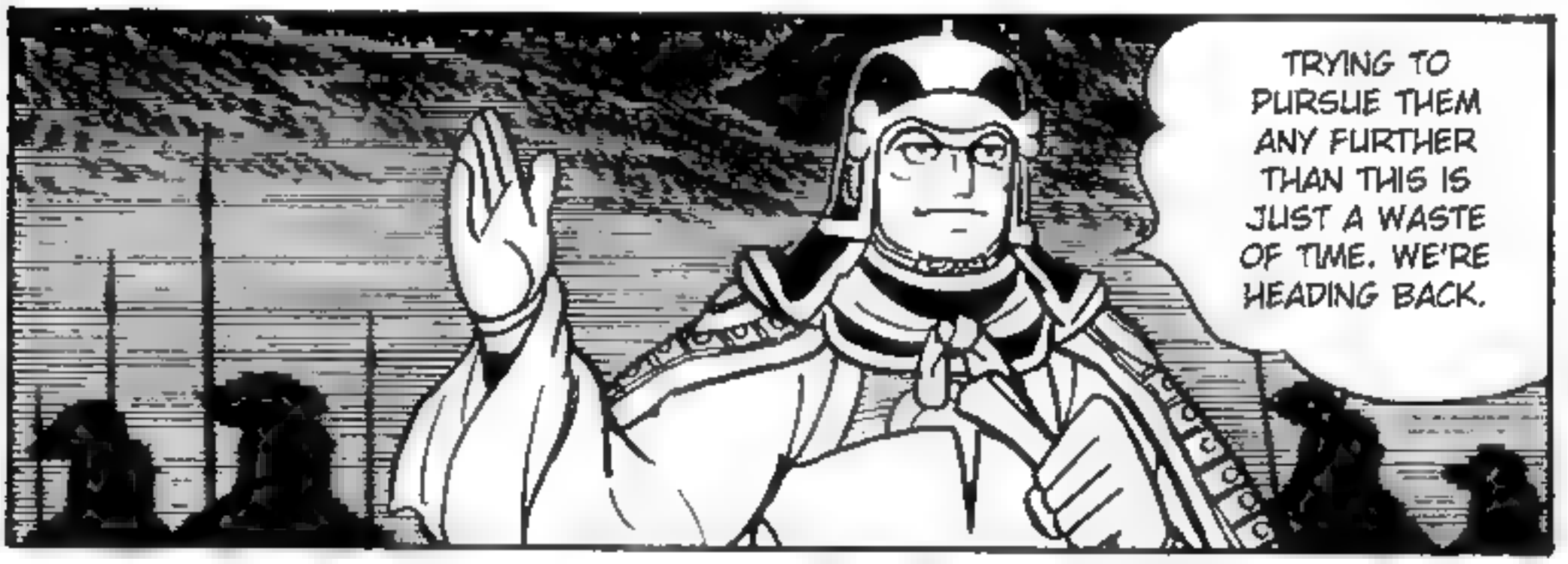
IT'S MUCH TOO DARK AND I DON'T SEE A TRACE OF THEM...

STOP!


TRYING TO PURSUE THEM ANY FURTHER THAN THIS IS JUST A WASTE OF TIME. WE'RE HEADING BACK.

TAKE CARE, GENERAL...

SO WE'LL NEED A SHIP TO CROSS THE RIVER...

SIR, WE'VE REACHED HUAZHOU, THE PORT OF THE YELLOW RIVER.

SIGN (滑州) READS HUAZHOU

IF ONLY WE CAN FIND A SHIP WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE...

I AM QIN QI, TASKED WITH PROTECTING THIS POINT. IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

HALT!

GUAN YU YUNCHANG.

DO YOU HAVE A PASS?

HEBEI.

YOUR DESTINATION?

THEN I CANNOT LET YOU CROSS THE RIVER!

I HAVE NO SUCH THING.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO MEET THE SAME FATE AS THE OTHERS WHO TRIED TO BLOCK MY WAY, THEN STAND DOWN!

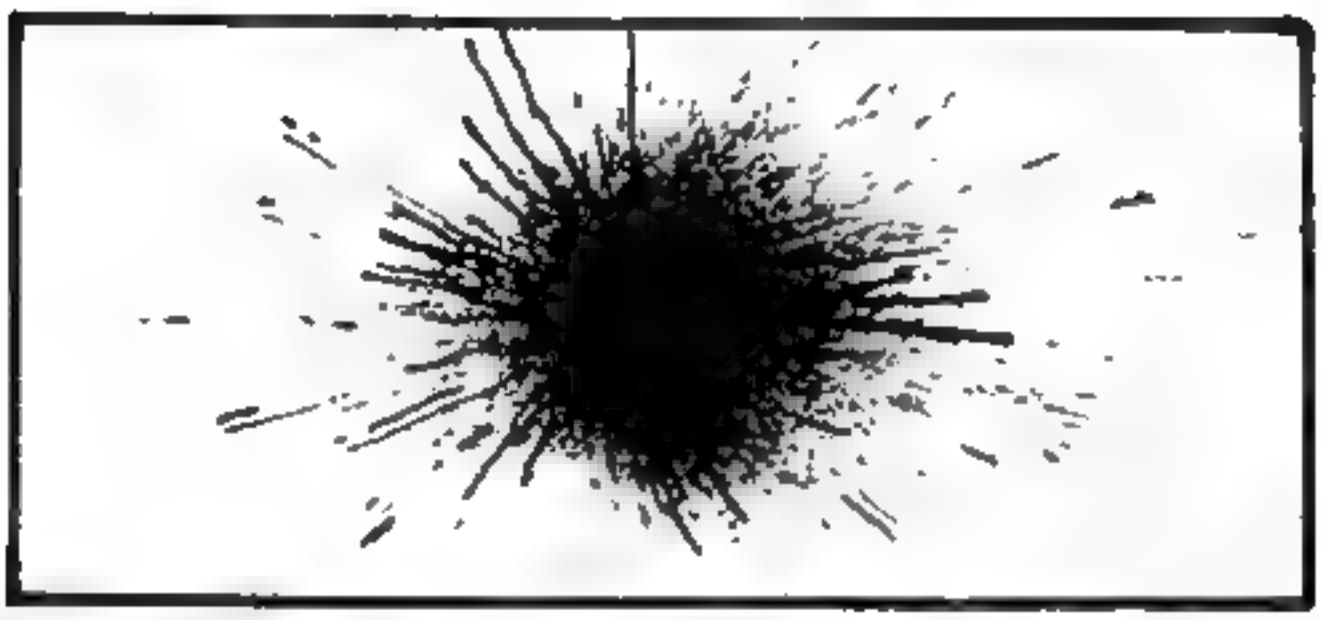
QIN QI, I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF HOW I MANAGED TO COME HERE.

THAT MAY APPLY FOR THE LIKES OF KONG XIU OR HAN FU, BUT I'M SURE EVEN YOU WOULD AGREE THAT YAN LIANG AND WEN CHOU ARE IN NO WAY, "WORTHLESS."

DON'T GET COCKY! YOU'VE ONLY SLAIN SOME WORTHLESS OFFICIALS!

IF YOU WISH TO DIE SO MUCH, THEN SO BE IT!

ENOUGH BOASTING!



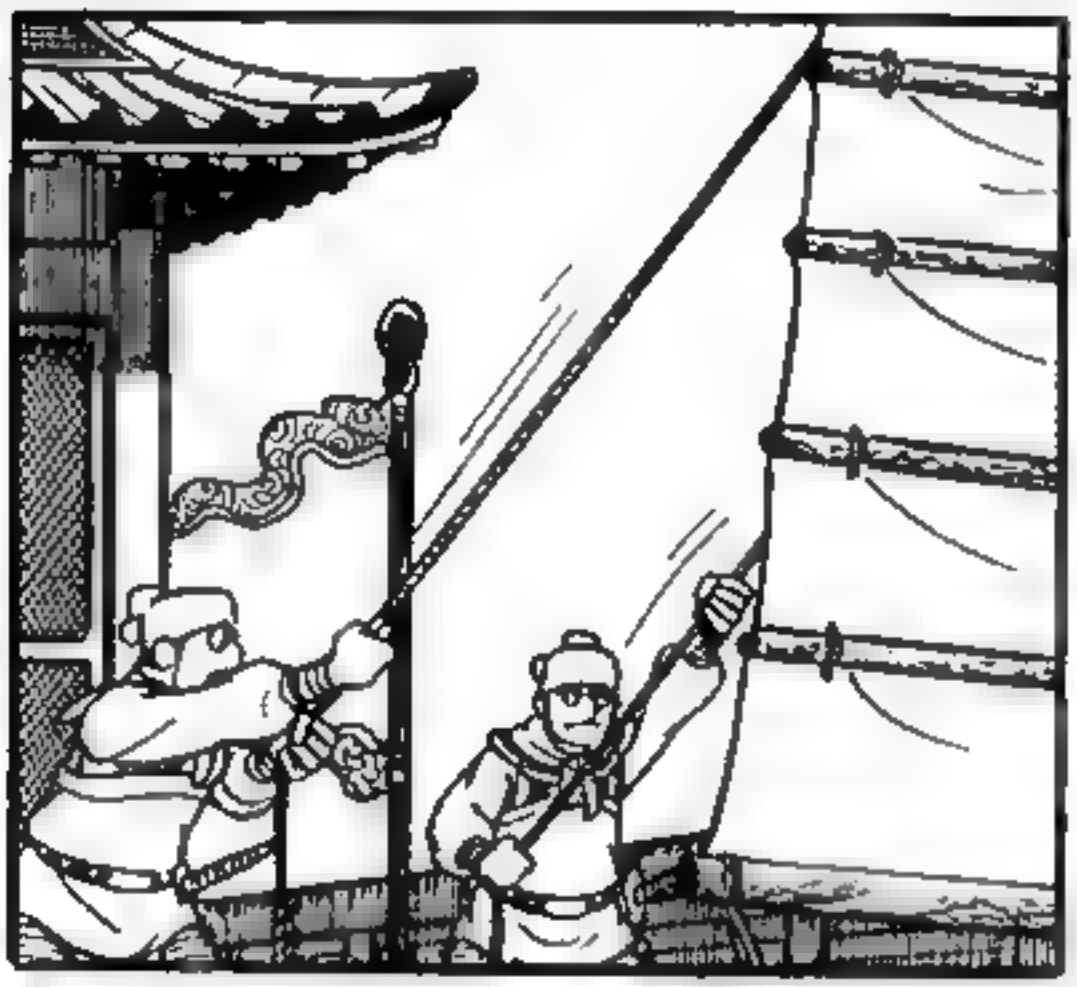
BUT I WILL WARN YOU THAT YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR ME!

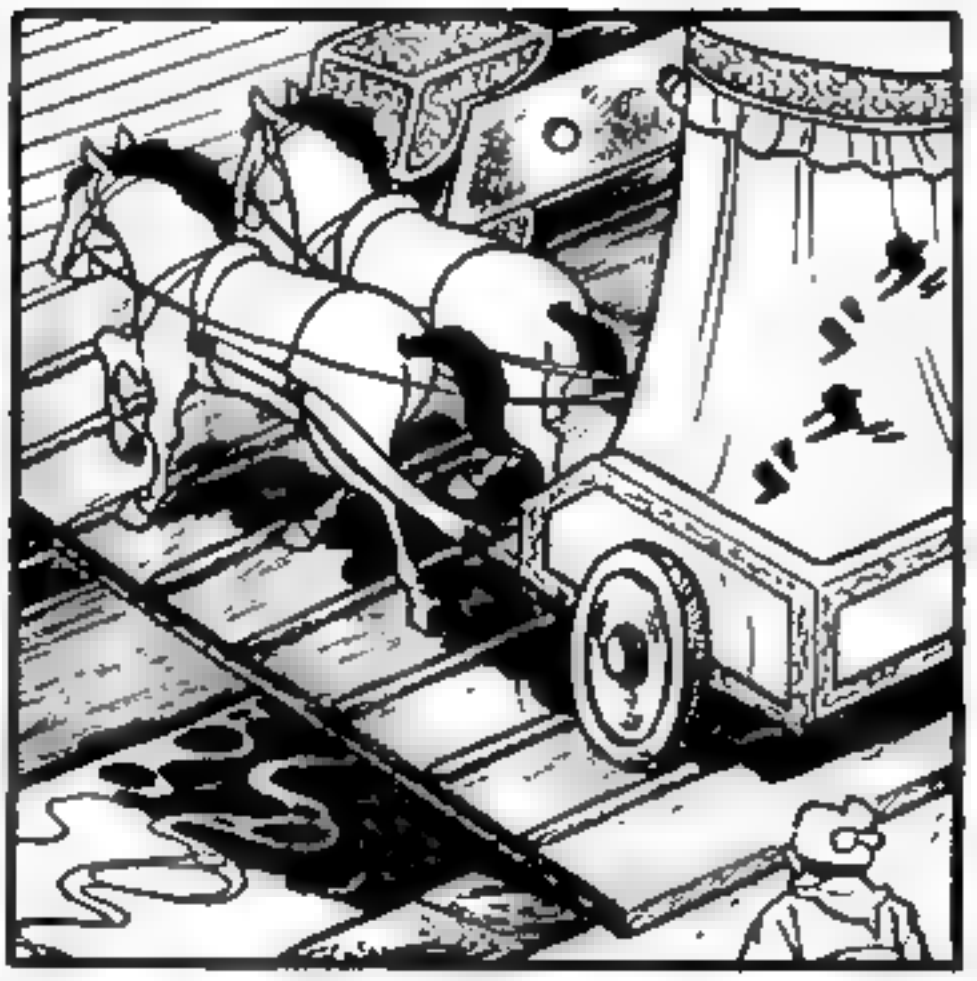
IF ANYONE WISHES TO CHALLENGE ME, THEN STEP FORTH!

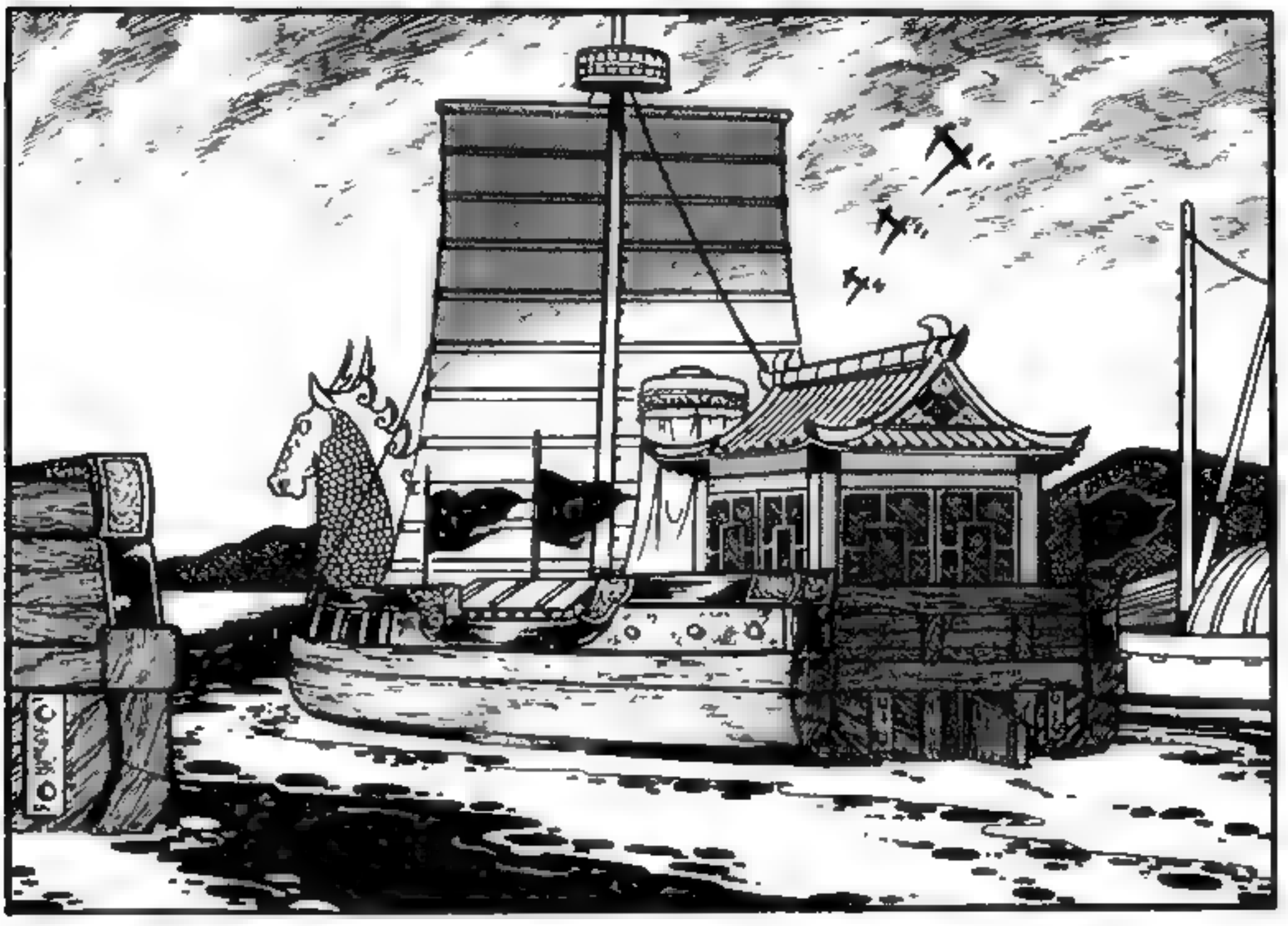
GOOD, I DO NOT WANT TO CAUSE ANYMORE SENSELESS VIOLENCE.

W-WE WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT, SIR...

COME.







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MIGHT MILADY BE TIRED OR NAUSEOUS FROM THE BOAT RIDE?

NO, NOT AT ALL. I AM ONLY HEART-SICK FOR MY HUSBAND.

NOT AT ALL. I AM ONLY DOING MY NATURAL DUTY, AFTER ALL.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, GENERAL.

WELL, IT SHAN'T BE MUCH LONGER.

UNDER-STOOD, GENERAL.

BUT WE ARE NOT YET OUT OF THE CLEAR SINCE WE ARE STILL WITHIN CAO CAO'S TERRITORY.

LET US DEPART ONCE AGAIN!

SIR, OVER THERE!

HM?

GO ON AHEAD, I'LL CATCH UP LATER.

AT LAST, I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU.

WELL IF IT ISN'T XIAHOU DUN.

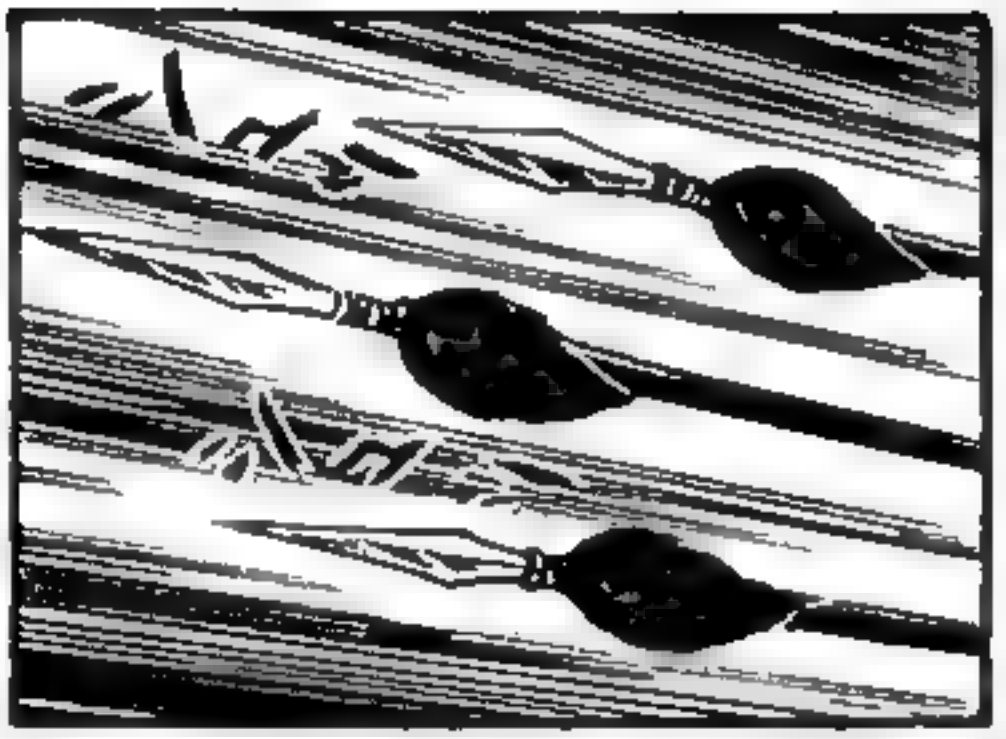
I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU KILLED 6 GENERALS ON YOUR WAY HERE, INCLUDING MY SUBORDINATE QIN QI.

MUST WE ALSO SAY OUR GOOD-BYES WITH BLOOD?

I HAVE MADE A PROMISE WITH THE CHANCELLOR THAT I WOULD RETURN TO MY LORD NO MATTER WHAT. IF THAT MEANS WALKING THROUGH A PATH OF CARNAGE, THEN SO BE IT.

HAVE AT YOU!

AREN'T YOU THE POETIC BASTARD!?



ENOUGH TALK!
AS EXPECTED OF ONE OF CAO CAO'S FINEST GENERALS.

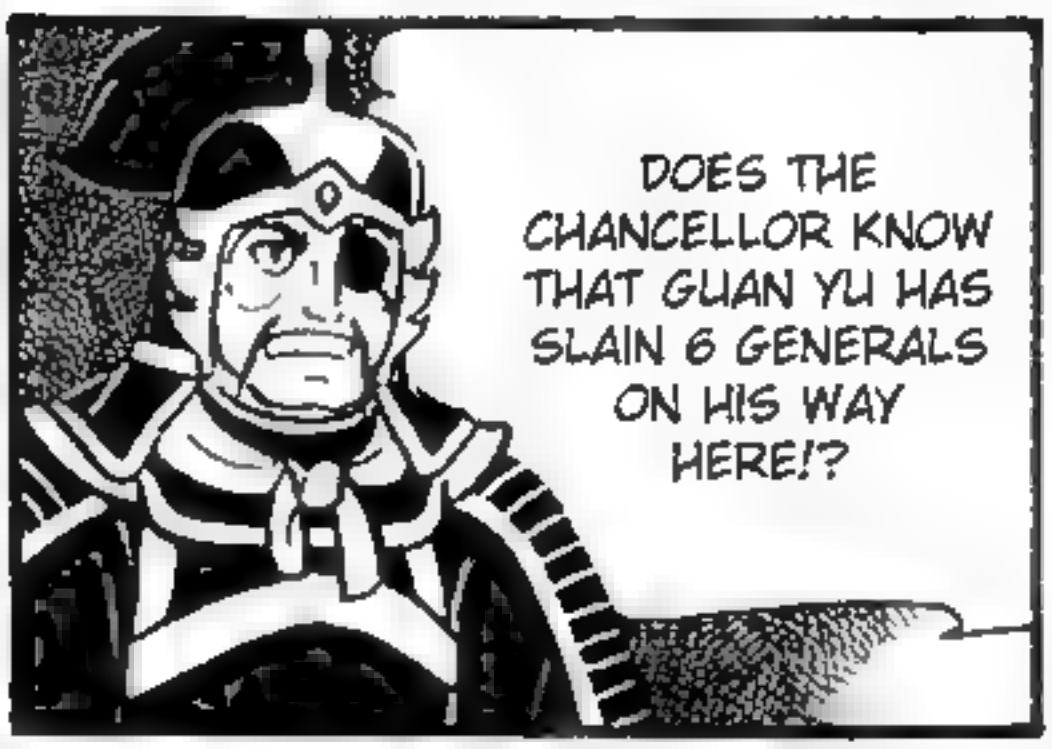
CEASE THIS FIGHTING!

?

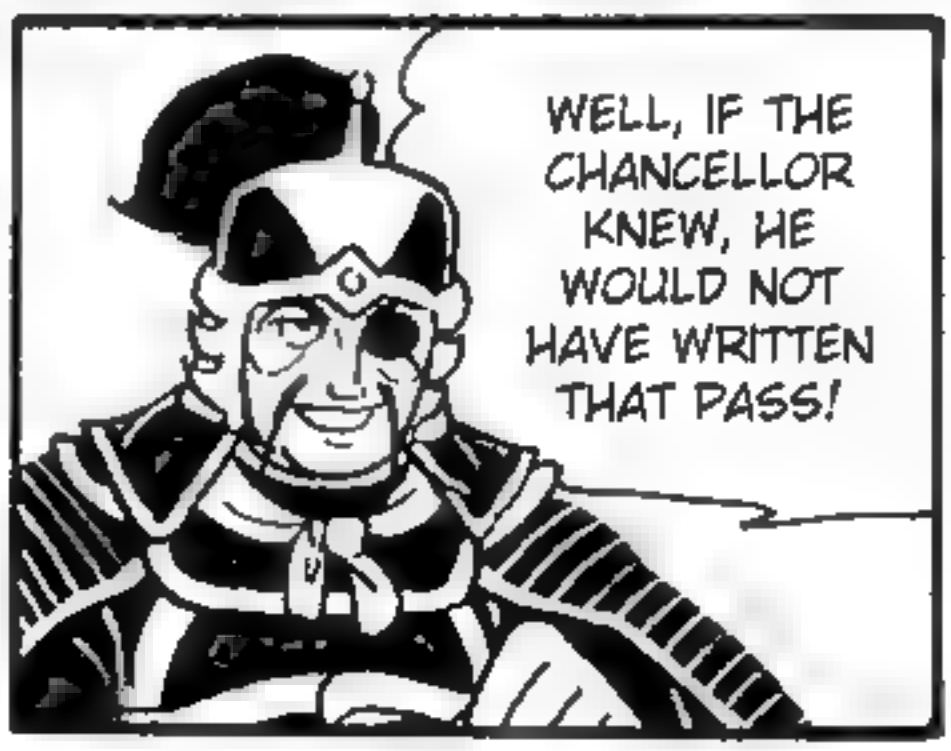
I BRING AN OFFICIAL PASS FOR GUAN YU, SIGNED BY THE CHANCELLOR!

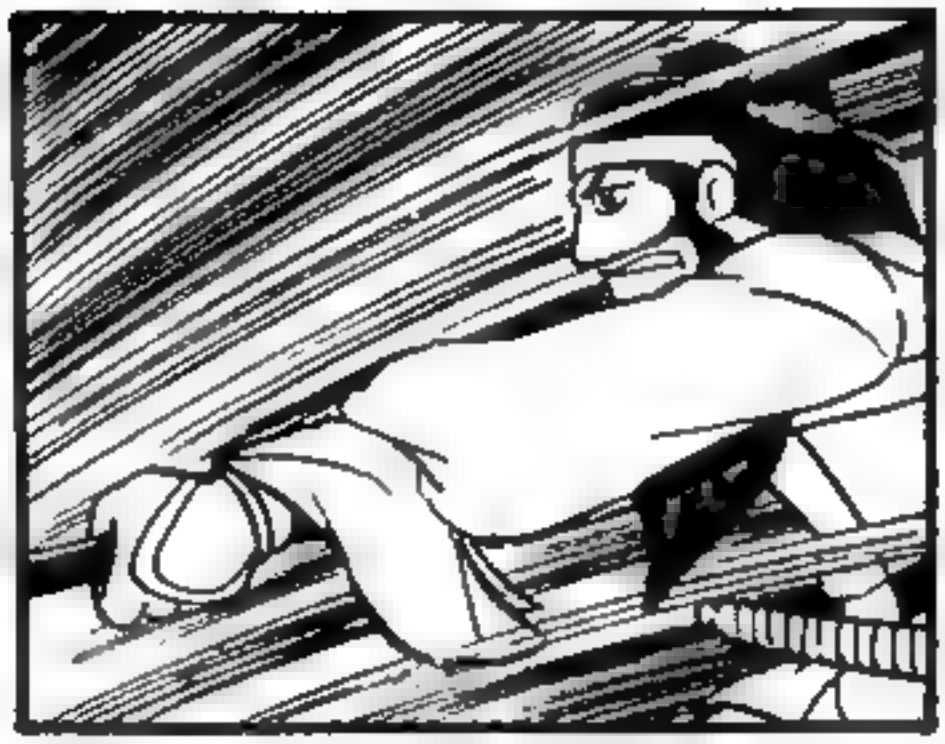
THE CHANCELLOR HAS GIVEN HIS CONSENT TO ALLOW GUAN YU FREE ACCESS THROUGH ALL CHECKPOINTS.

NO, THIS PASS WAS WRITTEN BEFORE HE RECEIVED WORD OF THOSE HAPPENINGS.


DOES THE CHANCELLOR KNOW THAT GUAN YU HAS SLAIN 6 GENERALS ON HIS WAY HERE!?

I SHALL ARREST GUAN YU AND BRING HIM TO TRIAL!

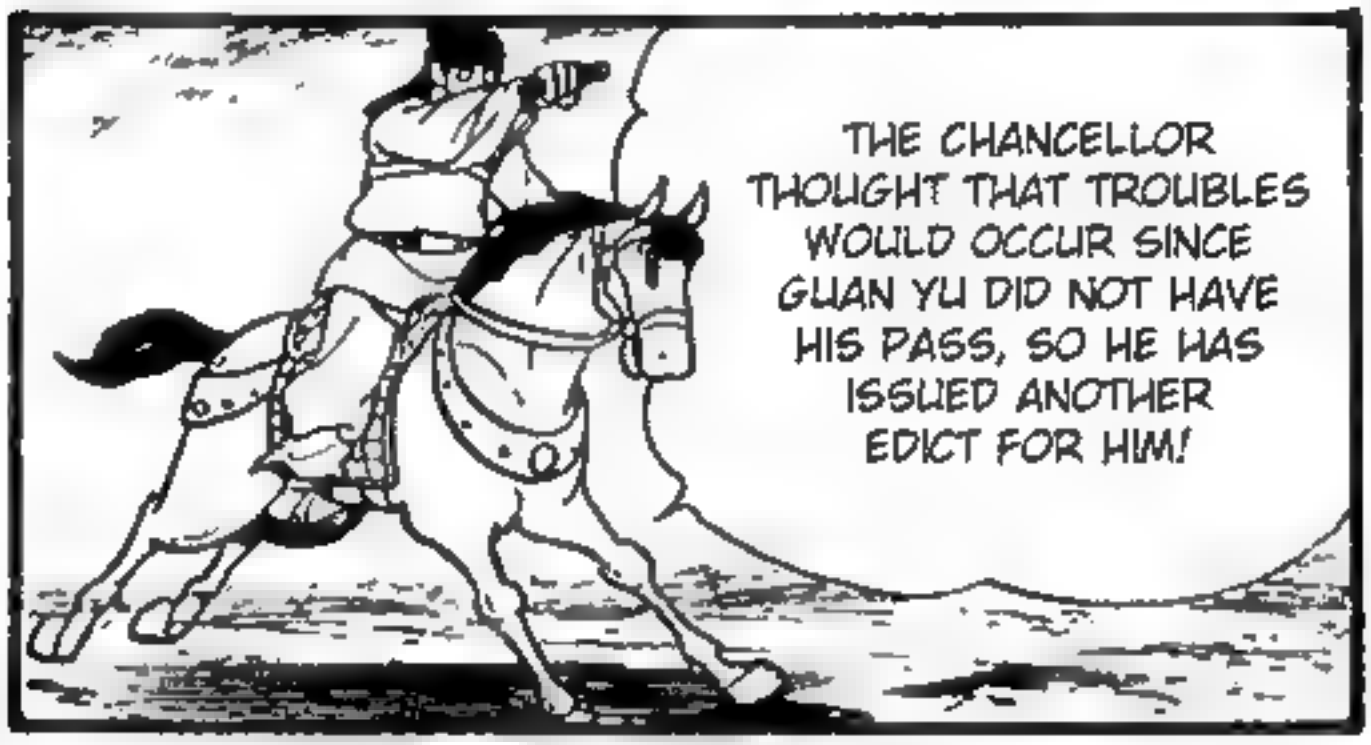

WELL, IF THE CHANCELLOR KNEW, HE WOULD NOT HAVE WRITTEN THAT PASS!



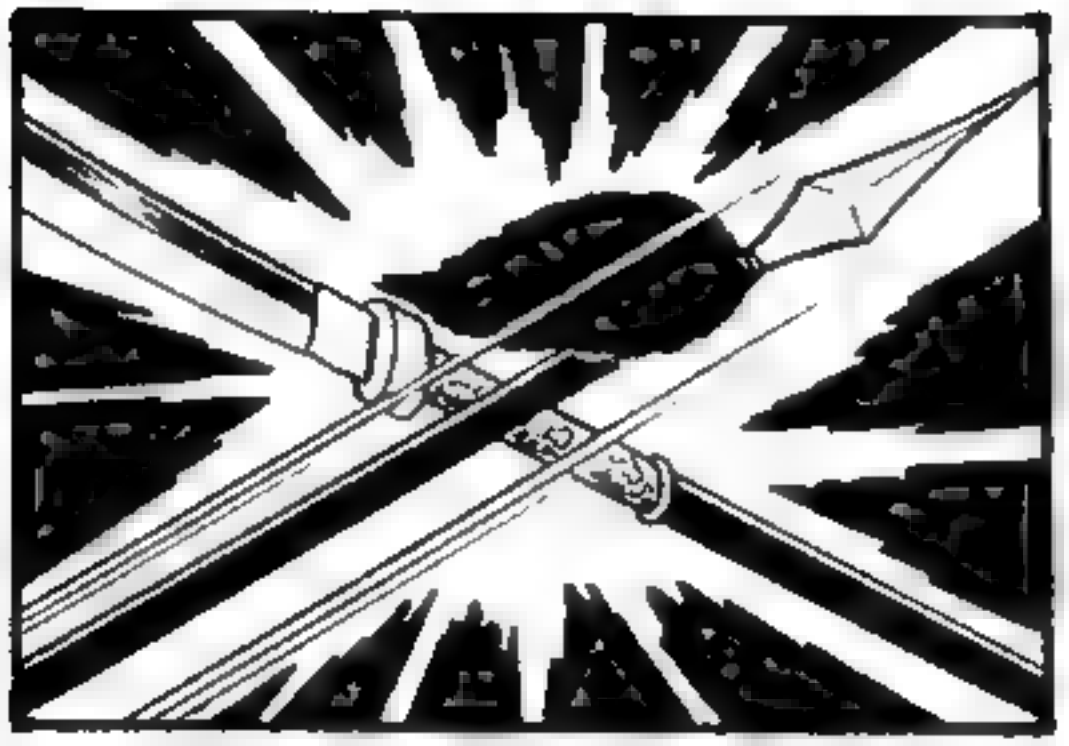
WHAT IS IT!?

AGAIN?

STOP!


THE CHANCELLOR THOUGHT THAT TROUBLES WOULD OCCUR SINCE GUAN YU DID NOT HAVE HIS PASS, SO HE HAS ISSUED ANOTHER EDICT FOR HIM!

IT HAS TO BE!
WHAT!? T-THEN THAT EDICT MUST BE AN ORDER FOR HIS ARREST!



XIAHOU DUN! CEASE YOUR OBSTINACY!

ZHANG LIAO!

EVER SINCE HEARING OF KONG XIU'S DEATH, THE CHANCELLOR HAS BEEN WORRIED SICK THAT OTHER STUBBORN GENERALS MIGHT OPPOSE GUAN YU'S WAY AND UNNECESSARILY LOSE THEIR LIVES. HE HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WHOLE AFFAIR.

WHA!?
THE CHANCELLOR IS WORRIED SICK BECAUSE OF STUBBORN MEN SUCH AS YOURSELF.

W-WHY DOES OUR LORD GO SO FAR FOR HIM!?

THAT'S WHY HE SENT OUT 2 MESSENGERS AND EVEN ME TO PREVENT FURTHER TRAGEDY!

NOW LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS OR YOU SHALL BE DEFYING OUR LORD!

THAT IS BECAUSE OUR LORD DEEPLY ADMIRES GENERAL GUAN YU.

YOU MAY BE ON YOUR WAY NOW.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE TROUBLES, GUAN YU.

NGHH ...!

I SHALL PASS ON THE WORD.

I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO THANK THE CHANCELLOR FOR REPEATEDLY LOOKING AFTER ME. TELL HIM THAT I AM DEEPLY SORRY FOR KILLING SO MANY OF HIS RETAINERS.

FAREWELL, THEN

ZHOU CANG OF THE WEST

I'M AFRAID NOT YET, MILADY.

GENERAL, ARE WE IN THE CLEAR NOW?

YES, BUT WE'RE NOW OUTSIDE HIS TERRITORY.

BUT HASN'T THE CHANCELLOR GIVEN US A PASS NOW?

DANGEROUS?

OUTSIDE CAO CAO'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, THERE ARE STILL MANY DANGEROUS MEN LURKING ABOUT.

YES, I'M TALKING OF BANDITS OR LOOTERS.

THEY'RE MOST LIKELY STARVING PEASANTS WHO WERE FORCED INTO STEALING TO SURVIVE. I DOUBT THEY KNOW HOW TO FIGHT PROPERLY.
W-WILL WE BE ALRIGHT, GENERAL?

WELL SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

HALT RIGHT THERE! IF YOU WISH TO PASS THROUGH THESE MOUNTAINS SAFELY, THEN HAND OVER ALL YOUR VALUABLES!

WHAT!?

HAHAHA. YOU'VE PICKED THE WRONG OPPONENT TODAY, MY FRIEND.

WHA ...!?

NO NEED TO HOLD BACK. COME ON, I'LL TAKE ON ALL OF YOU.

JUDGING BY HIS BEARD, I THINK HE MAY BE THE FAMOUS GUAN YU.

WHY?
HOLD ON A SECOND.

GUAN YU YUN-CHANG.

W-WHAT MIGHT SIR'S NAME BE...?

AHH!

A-AGHH!

ALL OF YOU! DISMOUNT FROM YOUR HORSES AND PAY PROPER RESPECT!

PLEASE FORGIVE US, SIR.

WE'VE HEARD OF SIR'S VALIANT DEEDS OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

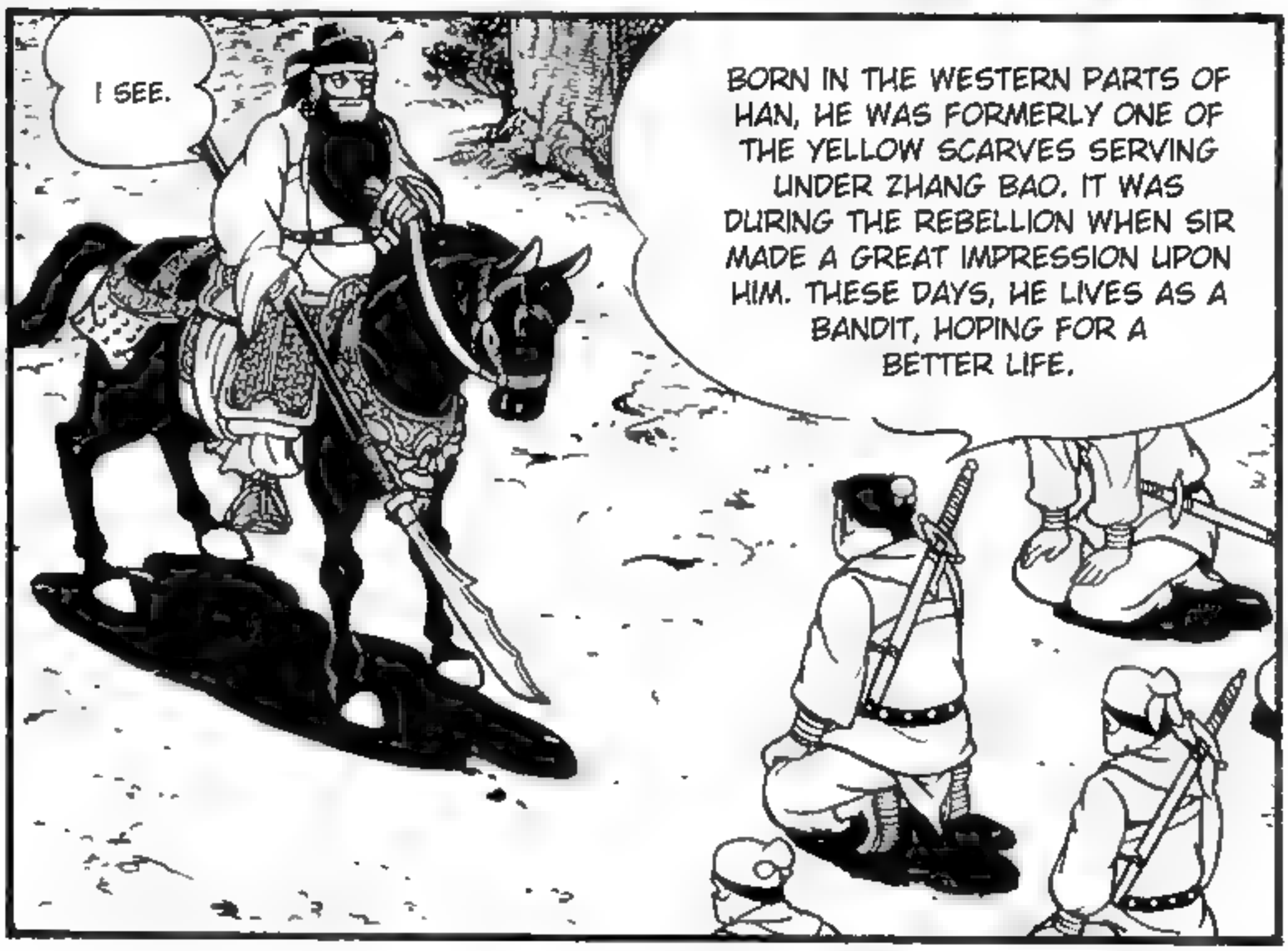
HOW DO BANDITS SUCH AS YOUR-SELVES KNOW OF ME?

FROM OUR BOSS. HE'S A FIERCE WARRIOR NAMED ZHOU CANG LIVING HERE IN MT. WUNIU.

REALLY? FROM WHOM?

WELL, I WOULDN'T EXPECT SIR TO KNOW OF HIM.

ZHOU CANG? NEVER HEARD OF HIM...


I SEE.
BORN IN THE WESTERN PARTS OF HAN, HE WAS FORMERLY ONE OF THE YELLOW SCARVES SERVING UNDER ZHANG BAO. IT WAS DURING THE REBELLION WHEN SIR MADE A GREAT IMPRESSION UPON HIM. THESE DAYS, HE LIVES AS A BANDIT, HOPING FOR A BETTER LIFE.

RIGHT AWAY.

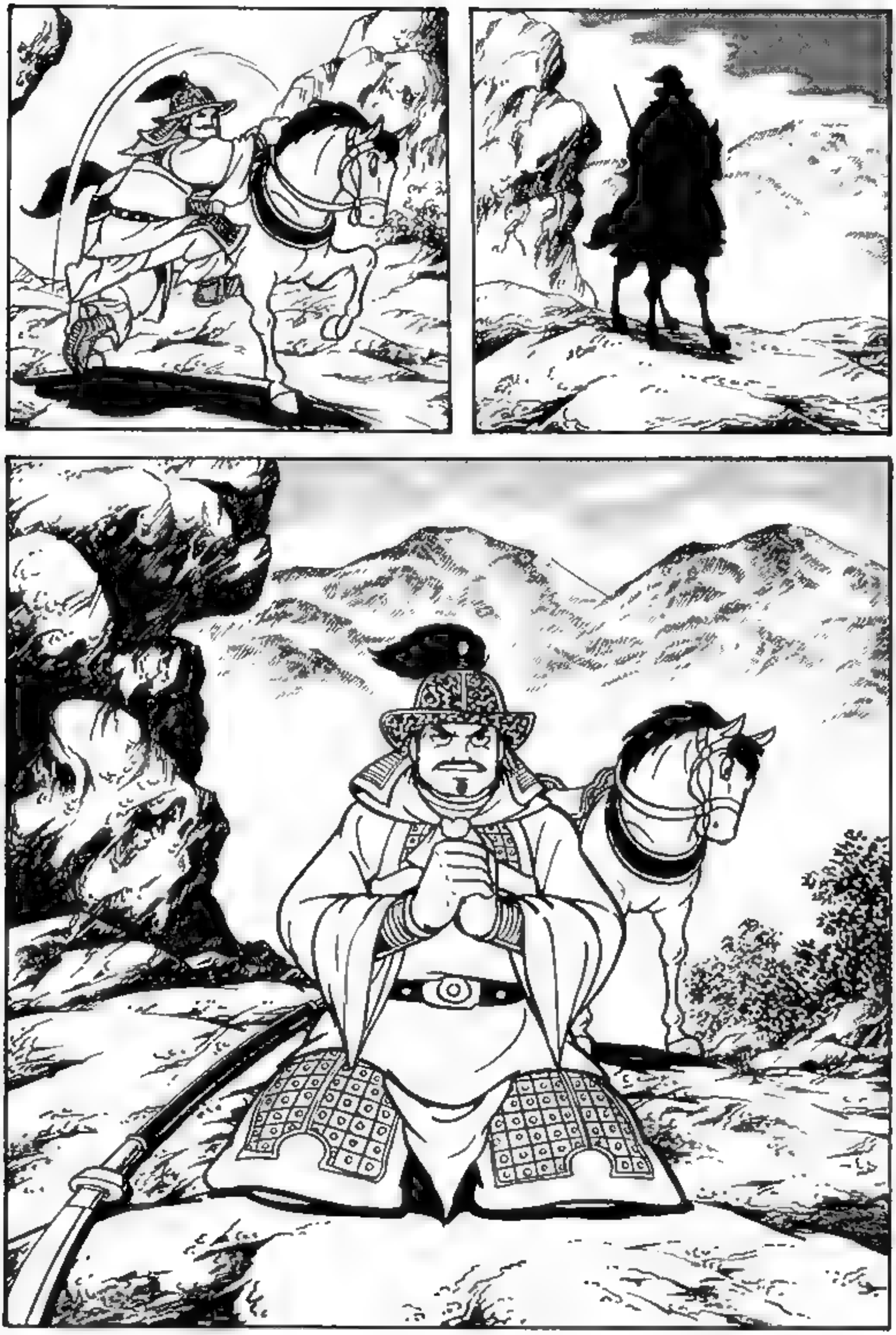
YOU THERE, HURRY UP AND GO INFORM ZHOU CANG ABOUT THE GENERAL.

NO, NOT AT ALL.

WOULD IT BE TOO MUCH OF A TROUBLE TO ASK SIR TO MEET WITH HIM?

RIGHT THIS WAY, GENERAL.

AH, THERE HE IS!



YES, SIR.

ARE YOU THE ONE CALLED ZHOU CANG?

YES, I STILL VIVIDLY REMEMBER OF SIR'S GALLANTRY OUT ON THE BATTLEFIELDS DURING THE YELLOW SCARVES REBELLION.

I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT ME.

EVER SINCE THE DEFEAT OF THE YELLOW SCARVES, I HID MYSELF IN THESE MOUNTAINS AND LIVED WITH THE BANDITS HERE.

SAVE YOU?

BUT I DO NOT INTEND ON LIVING OUT THE REST OF MY DAYS AS A MOUNTAIN BANDIT. PLEASE, I IMPLORE SIR TO SAVE ME FROM THIS WRETCHED PATH.

WELL, YOU SEEM LIKE A HONEST FELLOW.

I WISH TO SERVE BY SIR'S SIDE, EVEN AS A MERE FOOTSOLDIER. PLEASE GIVE ME A CHANCE TO FIX MY WAYS AND DO SOME GOOD IN THIS WORLD.

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR COMPAN-IONS?

I WOULD GLADLY GIVE MY LIFE FOR SIR AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

HMM, WELL THAT'S A LITTLE TROUBLING.

THE OTHERS ALL LONG FOR A BETTER LIFE AS WELL. THEY WOULD BE HAPPY TO JOIN AS WELL.

THE PEOPLE MIGHT LABEL HIM AS A BANDIT LEADER.

IF I BRING ALONG A GROUP OF BANDITS, IT MIGHT BRING ILL RUMOURS UPON MY LORD.

BUT IT WILL BE EVEN HARDER FOR US TO TURN A NEW LEAF WITHOUT SIR'S ASSISTANCE.

TRUE... OUTLAWS LIKE US AREN'T THE MOST RESPECTED PEOPLE...

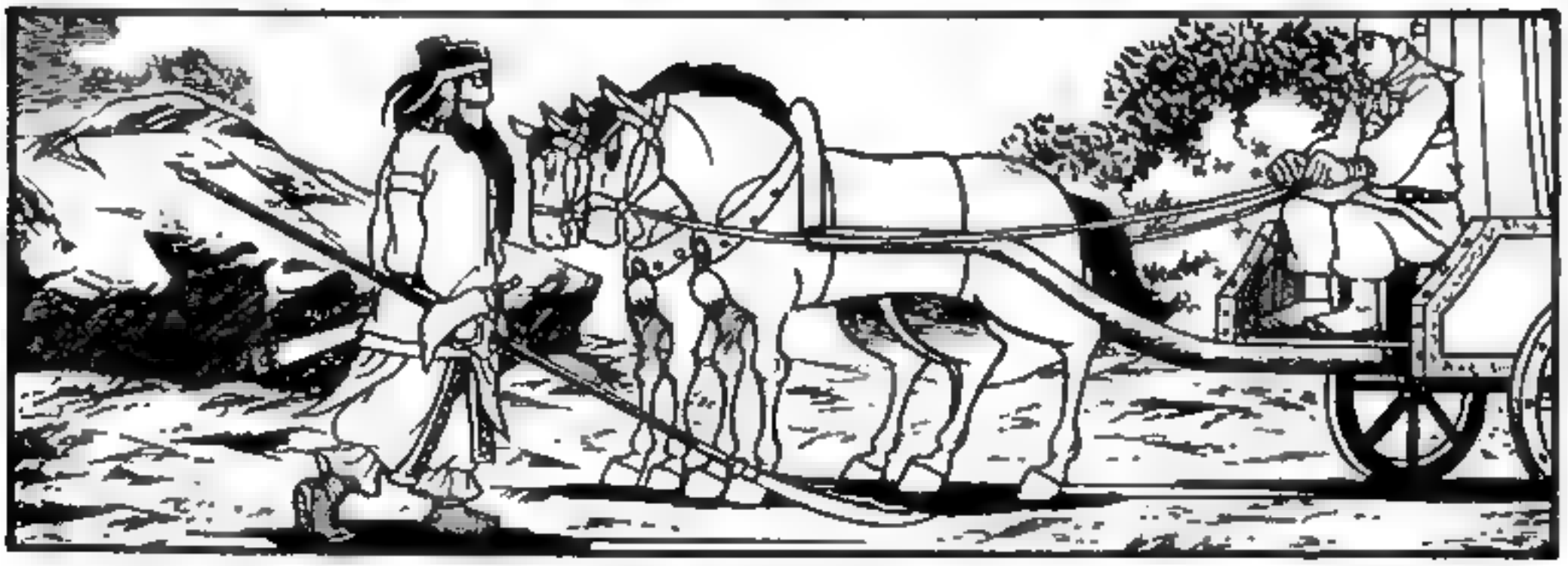
HMM...

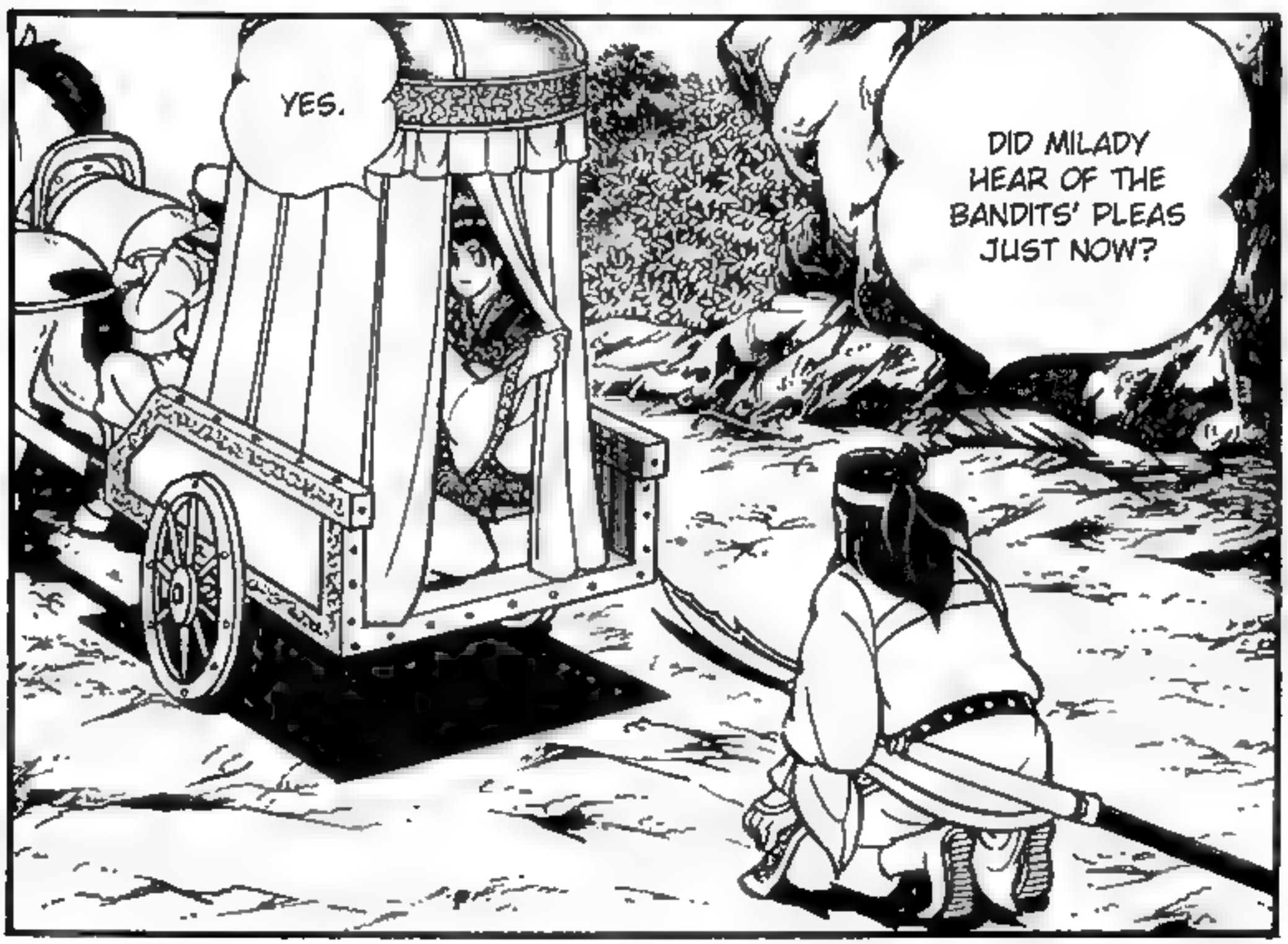
I'M BEGGING YOU, SIR. PLEASE GIVE US A CHANCE TO WALK ON THE PATH OF GOODWILL AS PROPER HUMANS.

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE AT LEAST TAKE OUR BOSS ALONG WITH YOU, GENERAL.

IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK, GENERAL?

I MUST FIRST CONSULT WITH MILADY.




YES.
DID MILADY HEAR OF THE BANDITS' PLEAS JUST NOW?

WELL, IT IS TRUE THAT THOUGHT-LESSLY BRINGING THEM ALONG MIGHT TARNISH MY HUSBAND'S REPUTATION.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

A WISE DECISION, MILADY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, GENERAL?

BUT REJECTING THEM ALTOGETHER WOULD BE TOO CRUEL. PERHAPS ACCEPTING ONE OR TWO MEN FOR NOW WOULD BE BEST.

IS THAT TRUE?

ZHOU CANG, MILADY HAS GIVEN ME PERMISSION TO TAKE YOU ALONE ALONG.

YES.

BOSS, YOUR DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE AT LAST!

THANK YOU, SIR!

ME?

IN THE MEAN-WHILE, I WANT YOU TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE REST OF THE BANDITS HERE.

WITHOUT A LEADER TO UNIFY THE GROUP, SOME OF THE OTHER BANDITS MIGHT GET OUT OF HAND AND HARASS POOR VILLAGERS.

YES, GENERAL. WE SHALL BE PATIENT UNTIL THEN.

ONCE THE TIME IS RIGHT, WE SHALL COME BACK FOR YOU AGAIN.

YES, SIR.

COME, ZHOU CANG.

YES, YOU TOO.

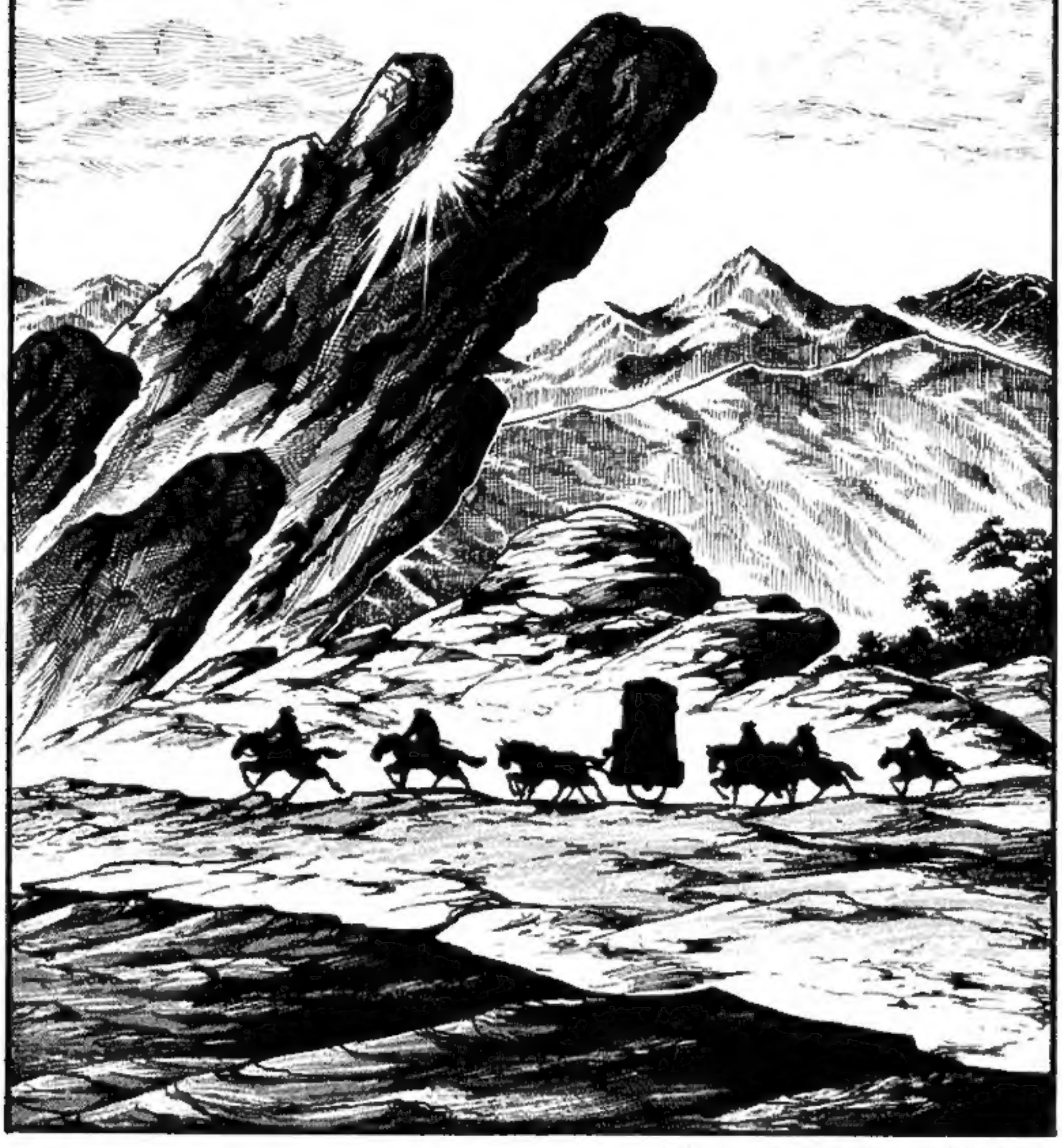
TAKE CARE, BOSS.

SEE YOU AGAIN SOON, SIR!

THEY'RE ALL GOOD-HEARTED PEOPLE DEEP INSIDE.
THEY SEEM TO RESPECT YOU QUITE A BIT.

WITH ANOTHER COMRADE BY HIS SIDE, GUAN YU CONTINUED ON HIS WAY.

THOUGH WEARY FROM
ALREADY HAVING
TRAVELLED A 1000LI FROM,
GUAN YU'S HEART STILL
YEARNED AS STRONGLY AS
EVER TO REUNITE WITH HIS
BROTHERS ONCE MORE.



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